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L E T T E R S,

WRITTEN BY THE LATE

JONATHAN SWIFT, D. D.

DEAN OF ST. PATRICK'S, DUBLIN,

A N D

SEVERAL OF HIS FRIENDS.

FROM THE YEAR 1703 TO 1740.

PUBLISHED FROM THE ORIGINALS;

W I T H

NOTES EXPLANATORY AND HISTORICAL,

BY JOHN HAWKESWORTH, L. L. D.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

A N E W E D I T I O N.

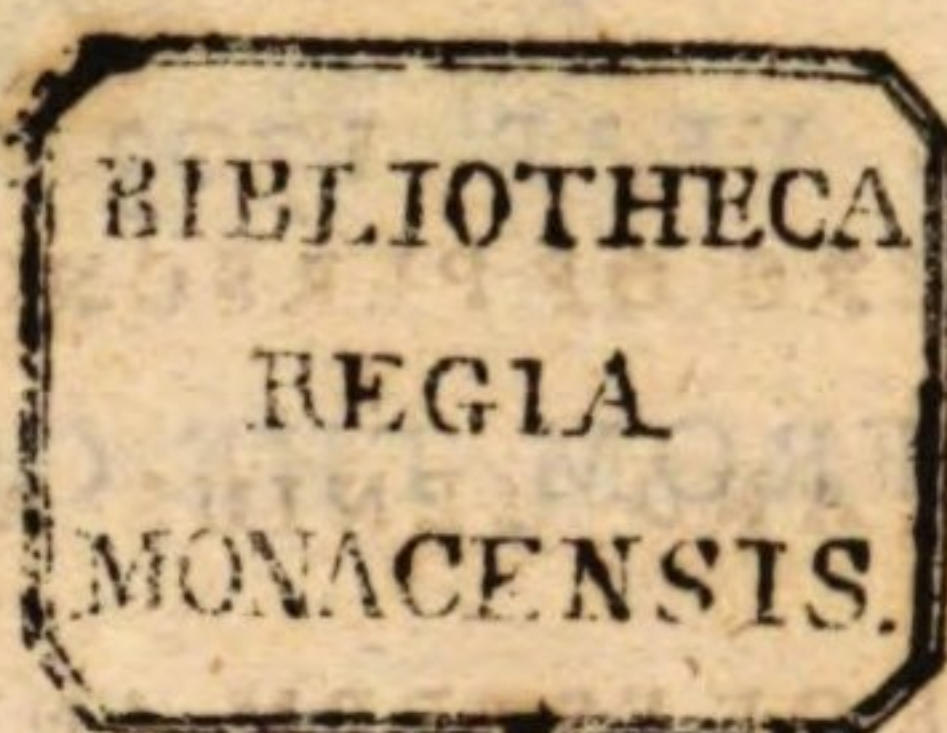
V O L U M E I.

L O N D O N,

Printed for T. DAVIES, in Ruffel-Street, Covent-Garden;  
R. DAVIS, in Piccadilly; L. DAVIS and C. REYMERS, in  
Holborn; and J. DODSLEY, in Pall-mall.

MDCCLXVI.







T O

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

RICHARD EARL TEMPLE,

VISCOUNT AND BARON COBHAM,

ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNCIL

AND KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER;

THESE LETTERS OF PERSONS EMINENT FOR  
THEIR RANK AND GENIUS ARE INSCRIBED,  
AS A TRIBUTE OF ESTEEM AND VENERATION,  
DUE TO A CHARACTER SO HIGHLY DISTIN-  
GUISHED FOR PRIVATE AND PUBLIC VIRTUE;  
FOR THE DISPLAY OF AMIABLE QUALITIES  
AS A MAN, AND THE EXERTION OF GREAT  
ABILITIES AS A PATRIOT, BY HIS

LORDSHIP'S

MOST OBEDIENT

HUMBLE SERVANT,

THOMAS WILKES.



THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

RICHARD EARL TEMPLE

VISCOUNT AND BARON COEHN

OF THE MOST HONOURABLE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER

THESE LETTERS OF PERSONS ENTITLED FOR

THEIR RANK AND GENTLE ARE INSCRIBED

AS A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT AND VENERATION

DUE TO A CHARACTER SO HIGHLY DISTINGUISHED

FOR THE DISTINCTION OF AMPLITUDE OF QUALITIES

AS A MAN AND THE EXERTION OF GREAT

ABILITIES AS A STATESMAN BY HIS CONDUCT

IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

AND IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

AND IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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# P R E F A C E.

THE letters here offered to the public were a present from the late Dr. *Swift* to Dr. *Lyon*, a clergyman of *Ireland*, for whom he had a great regard; they were obtained of Dr. *Lyon* by Mr. *Thomas Wilkes*, of *Dublin*, and of Mr. *Wilkes* by the booksellers for whom they are published.

As many of them mention persons who have been long dead, and allude to incidents not now generally known, they would have been too obscure to afford general entertainment or information, if they had not been elucidated by notes.

This necessary elucidation I have endeavoured to supply, at the request of the proprietors, from such knowledge of the Dean's connections and writings as I was able to acquire, when I revised twelve volumes of his works, which were published about ten years ago, with notes of the same kind, and some account of his life.

Many passages, however occurred, which, though they wanted explanation, I could



not explain: these I made the subject of queries, which being shewn to the late reverend Dr. *Birch*, he furnished answers to most of them, which are distinguished from the other notes by inverted commas. This favour cost him some trouble; but he conferred it with that readiness and pleasure, which had made his character amiable, upon many occasions of much greater importance.

It has been thought best to print all the letters in order of time, without regarding by whom they were written; for if all the letters of each person had been classed together, the pleasure of the reader would have been greatly lessened, by passing again and again through the same series, as often as he came to a new collection; whereas the series is now preserved regular and unbroken through the whole correspondence. Those which, being of uncertain dates, could not be brought into this series, are printed together in an appendix.

Three letters from the Dean to the late earl of Bath, general *Pulteney* was pleased to communicate to the editor, by the favour of the reverend Dr. *Douglas*; two of these will be found in the appendix, the  
4
other



other had been already printed from a copy in the Dean's hand-writing. In the appendix will also be found some letters between the Dean and Mrs. *Esther Vanbomrigh*, with a few others, which did not come to the hands of the proprietors till the rest of the work was printed \*.

Some letters of a private nature, and some that relate to persons who are still living, have been suppressed; but the number is very small. Some are inserted that persons still living have written; but they are such as would reflect no dishonour upon the highest character.

For the publication of letters, which certainly were not written for the public, I shall however make no apology in my own name, because the publication of them is not my own act, nor at my own option, but the act of those, to whom they had been sold for that purpose, before I knew they were in being.

It may, however, be presumed, that though the publication of letters has been censured by some, yet that it is not con-

\* Several letters, which made a part of the appendix in the first edition, are now inserted in their proper places.



demned by the general voice, since a numerous subscription, in which are many respectable names, has been lately obtained, for printing other parts of the Dean's epistolary correspondence, by a relation who professes the utmost veneration for his memory; and a noble lord has permitted Mr. *Wilkes* to place this under his protection.

A recommendation of these volumes is yet less necessary than an apology; the letters are indisputably genuine; the originals, in the hand-writing of the parties, or copies indorsed by the Dean, being deposited in the *British Museum*; except of those in the appendix mentioned to have come to the proprietors hands after the rest was printed, the originals of which are in the hands of a gentleman of great eminence in the law in *Ireland*.

They are all written by persons eminent for their abilities, many of whom were also eminent for their rank; the greater part are the genuine effusions of the heart, in the full confidence of the most intimate friendship, without reserve, and without disguise. Such in particular are the letters between the Dean and Mrs. *Johnson*, and Mrs. *Dingley*,



*Dingley*, lord *Bolingbroke*, Dr. *Arbutnot*, Mr. *Lewis*, Mr. *Ford*, and Mr. *Gay*.

They relate many particulars, that would not otherwise have been known, relative to some of the most interesting events that have happened in this century : they abound also with strains of humour, turns of wit, and refined sentiment : they are all strongly characteristic, and enable the reader “ to catch the manners living as they rise.” Those from the Dean to Mrs. *Johnson* and Mrs. *Dingley* are part of the journal mentioned in his life, and from them alone a better notion may be formed of his manner and character than from all that has been written about him.

But this collection must not be considered as affording only entertainment to the idle, or speculative knowledge to the curious ; it most forcibly impresses a sense of the vanity and the brevity of life, which the moralist and the divine have always thought an important purpose, but which mere declamation can seldom attain.

In a series of familiar letters between the same friends for thirty years, their whole life, as it were, passes in review before us ;  
we



we live with them, we hear them talk, we mark the vigour of life, the ardour of expectation, the hurry of business, the jollity of their social meetings, and the sport of their fancy in the sweet intervals of leisure and retirement; we see the scene gradually change; hope and expectation are at an end; they regret pleasures that are past, and friends that are dead; they complain of disappointment and infirmity; they are conscious that the sands of life which remain are few; and while we hear them regret the approach of the last, it falls, and we lose them in the grave. Such as they were, we feel ourselves to be; we are conscious to sentiments, connections, and situations like theirs; we find ourselves in the same path, urged forward by the same necessity, and the parallel in what has been, is carried on with such force to what shall be, that the future almost becomes present, and we wonder at the new power of those truths, of which we never doubted the reality and importance.

These letters will, therefore, contribute  
to



to whatever good may be hoped from a just estimate of life, and for that reason, if for no other, are by no means unworthy the attention of the public.

**A General**



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# LETTERS, &c.

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Dr. SWIFT to a Gentleman, an intimate friend of Mrs. ESTHER JOHNSON, in *Ireland*.

London, Dec. 16, 1703.

I PUT great violence on myself in abstaining all this while from treating you with politics. I wish you had been here for ten days during the highest and warmest reign of party and faction that I ever knew or read of, upon the bill against occasional conformity, which, two days ago, was, upon the first reading, rejected by the lords. It was so universal, that I observed the dogs in the streets much more contumelious and quarrelsome than usual; and the very night before the bill went up, a committee of whig and tory cats had a very



warm and loud debate upon the roof of our house. But why should we wonder at that, when the very ladies are split asunder into high church and low, and, out of zeal for religion, have hardly time to say their prayers? The masks will have a crown more from any man of the other party, and count it a high point of merit to a member, who will not vote on their side. For the rest, the whole body of the clergy, with a great majority of the house of commons, were violent for this bill. As great a majority of the lords, amongst whom all the bishops, but four were against it: the court and the rabble (as extremes often agree) were trimmers. I would be glad to know mens thoughts of it in *Ireland*: for myself, I am much at a loss, though I was mightily urged by some great people to publish my opinion. I cannot but think (if mens highest assurances are to be believed) that several, who were against this bill, do love the church, and do hate or despise presbytery. I put it close to my lord *Peterborough* just as the bill was going up, who assured me in the most solemn manner, that if he had the least suspicion, the rejecting this bill would hurt the church, or  
do



do kindness to the dissenters, he would lose his right-hand rather than speak against it. The like profession I had from the bishop of *Salisbury*, my lord *Sommers*, and some others ; so that I know not what to think, and therefore shall think no more ; and you will forgive my saying so much on a matter, that all our heads have been so full of to a degree, that, while it was on the anvil, nothing else was the subject of conversation. I shall return in two months, in spite of my heart. I have here the best friends in nature, only want that little circumstance of favour and power ; but nothing is so civil as a cast courtier. Pray let the ladies know I had their letter, and will answer it soon ; and that I obeyed Mrs. *Johnson's* commands, and waited on her mother, and other friend. You may add, if you please, that they advise her clearly to be governed by her friends there about the renewing her lease, and she may have her mortgage taken up here whenever she pleases, for the payment of her fine ; and that we have a project for putting out her money in a certain lady's hands for annuities, if the parliament goes on with them, and she likes it.



I'll teach you a way to outwit Mrs. *Johnson*: it is a new-fashioned way of being witty, and they call it a bite. You must ask a bantering question, or tell some damned lye in a serious manner, and then she will answer or speak as if you were in earnest: then cry you, Madam, there's a bite. I would not have you undervalue this, for it is the constant amusement in court, and every where else among the great people; and I let you know it, in order to have it obtain among you, and teach you a new refinement.

## LETTER II.

Dr. SWIFT to the same. (Part of a letter.)

London, Feb. 3. 1703-4.

**I** HAVE been so long and so frequently pursued with a little paltry ailment of a noise in my ears, that I could never get humour and time to answer your letter. Pox on the dissenters and independents, I would as soon trouble my head to write against a louse or a flea. I tell you what, I wrote against the bill that was against occasional conformity; but it came too late  
by



by a day: so I would not print it, but you may answer it, if you please; for you know you and I are whig and tory. And, to cool your insolence a little, know you, that the queen and court, and house of lords, and half the commons almost, are whigs; and the number daily encreases.

### L E T T E R III.

Dr. S W I F T to the same.

London, April 20, 1704.

YESTERDAY coming from the country I found your letter, which had been four or five days arrived, and by neglect was not forwarded as it ought. You have got three epithets for my former letter, which I believe are all unjust: you say it was unfriendly, unkind, and unaccountable. The two first, I suppose, may pass but for one, saving (as Capt. *Fluellin* says) the phrase is a little *variations*. I shall therefore answer those two as I can; and for the last, I return it you again by these presents, assuring you, that there is more unaccountability in your letter's little finger, than in mine's whole body. And one strain I observe in it, which is frequent enough;  
you



you talk in a myſtical ſort of way, as if you would have me believe I had ſome great deſign, and that you had found it out : your phraſes are, that my letter had the effect you judge I deſigned ; that you are amazed to reflect on what you judge the cauſe of it ; and wiſh it may be in your power to love and value me while you live, &c. In anſwer to all this, I might with good pretence enough talk ſtarchtly, and affect ignorance of what you would be at ; but my conjecture is, that you think I obſtructed your inſinuations to pleaſe my own, and that my intentions were the ſame with yours. In anſwer to all which, I will upon my conſcience and honour tell you the naked truth. Firſt, I think I have ſaid to you before, that if my fortunes and humour ſerved me to think of that ſtate, I ſhould certainly, among all perſons on earth, make your choice ; becauſe I never ſaw that perſon whoſe converſation I entirely valued but her's ; this was the utmoſt I ever gave way to. And, ſecondly, I muſt aſſure you ſincerely, that this regard of mine never once entered into my head to be an impediment to you ; but I judged it would, perhaps, be a clog to your riſing in the world ; and I did



did not conceive you were then rich enough to make yourself and her happy and easy. But that objection is now quite removed by what you have at present; and by the assurances of *Eaton's* livings. I told you indeed, that your authority was not sufficient to make overtures to the mother, without the daughter's giving me leave under her own or her friend's hand, which, I think, was a right and a prudent step. However, I told the mother immediately, and spoke with all the advantages you deserve. But the objection of your fortune being removed, I declare I have no other; nor shall any consideration of my own misfortune of losing so good a friend and companion as her prevail on me, against her interest and settlement in the world, since it is held so necessary and convenient a thing for ladies to marry; and that time takes off from the lustre of virgins in all other eyes but mine. I appeal to my letters to herself, whether I was your friend or no in the whole concern; though the part I designed to act in it was purely passive, which is the utmost I will ever do in things of this nature, to avoid all reproach of any ill consequence, that may ensue in the variety of



worldly accidents. Nay, I went so far both to her mother, herself, and, I think, to you, as to think it could not be decently broken ; since I supposed the town had got it in their tongues, and therefore I thought it could not miscarry without some disadvantage to the lady's credit. I have always described her to you in a manner different from those, who would be discouraging; and must add, that though it hath come in my way to converse with persons of the first rank, and of that sex, more than is usual to men of my level, and of our function ; yet I have no-where met with a humour, a wit, or conversation so agreeable, a better portion of good sense, or a truer judgment of men and things, I mean here in *England* ; for as to the ladies of *Ireland*, I am a perfect stranger. As to her fortune, I think you know it already ; and, if you resume your designs, and would have further intelligence, I shall send you a particular account.

I give you joy of your good fortunes, and envy very much your prudence and temper, and love of peace and settlement, the reverse of which hath been the great uneasiness of my life, and is like to continue  
so



10. And what is the result? *En queis con-*  
*sevimus agros!* I find nothing but the good  
 words and wishes of a decayed ministry,  
 whose lives and mine will probably wear  
 out before they can serve either my little  
 hopes, or their own ambition. Therefore I  
 am resolved suddenly to retire, like a dis-  
 contented courtier, and vent myself in stu-  
 dy and speculation, till my own humour,  
 or the scene here, shall change.

#### L E T T E R IV.

Earl of BERKELEY \* to Dr.  
 SWIFT.

Cranford, Friday Night.

I HOPE you continue in the mind of  
 coming hither to-morrow; for upon my  
 sincerity, which is more than most people's,  
 I shall be heartily glad to see you as much  
 as is possible before you go for *Ireland*.  
 Whether you are or are not for *Cranford*, I  
 earnestly intreat you, if you have not done

\* ' He had been envoy extraordinary and plenipoten-  
 tiary to the States General in 1689; and in 1699 and  
 1700, one of the lords justices of *Ireland*. He died Sept.  
 24, 1710. Dr. *Swift* had been chaplain to him. This  
 letter is without date, but endorsed by Dr. *Swift* "about  
 1706, or 1707."



it already, that you would not fail of having your bookseller enable the archbishop of *York* to give a book \* to the queen; for, with Mr. *Nelson* †, I am entirely of opinion, that her majesty's reading of that book of the project for the increase of morality and piety, may be of very great use to that end.

I am entirely yours, B.

## LETTER V.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT.

S I R,

Feb. 29, 1707-8.

MR. *Frowde* ‡ tells me, that you design me the honour of a visit to-morrow morning; but my lord *Sunderland* § having directed me to wait on him at nine o'clock, I shall take it as a particular fa-

\* ' Dr. *Swift's Project for the advancement of Religion, and the Reformation of Manners.*'

† ' *Robert Nelson, Esq;* eminent for his pious writings.'

‡ ' *Philip Frowde, Esq;* son of *Ashburnham Frowde, Esq;* comptroller of the foreign office in the post-office. Mr. *Philip Frowde* was educated at *Magdalen college* in *Oxford*, and was pupil of Mr. *Addison*. He was author of two tragedies, *The fall of Saguntum*, represented at the theatre in *Lincoln's-inn-fields* in 1727; and *Philotas*, acted at the same theatre, in 1731. He died at his lodgings in *Cecil-street* in the *Strand*, Dec. 19, 1738, equally lamented, as he had been beloved, for his genius, learning, and the amiableness of his character.'

§ ' To whom Mr. *Addison* was secretary.'

Yours,



vour, if you will give me your company at the *George* in *Pall-mall* about two in the afternoon, when I may hope to enjoy your conversation more at leisure, which I set a very great value upon. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

J. ADDISON,

Mr. *Steele* and *Frowde* will dine with us.

## LETTER VI.

Dr. SWIFT to Dr. STERNE,  
Dean of *St. Patrick's, Dublin*.

SIR,

London, April 15, 1708.

I WONDER whether in the midst of your buildings, you ever consider that I have broke my shins, and have been a week confined, this charming weather, to my chamber, and cannot go abroad to hear the nightingales, or pun with my lord *Pembroke*. Pug is very well, and likes *London* wonderfully, but *Greenwich* better, where we could hardly keep him from hunting down the deer. I am told by some at court, that the bishop of *Kildare* \* is utterly bent upon a removal on this side, though it be to *St. Asaph*; and then the

\* Dr. *Wellbore Ellis*.



question must be, whether Dr. *Pratt* will be dean of *St. Patrick's*, minister of *St. Catherine's*, or provost? For I tell you a secret, that the queen is resolved the next promotion shall be to one of *Dublin* education: this she told the lord lieutenant. Your new *Waterford* bishop \* franks his letters, which no bishop does that writes to me ; I suppose it is some peculiar privilege of that see. The dissenters have made very good use here of your frights in *Ireland* upon the intended invasion ; and the archbishop writes me word, that the address of *Dublin* city will be to the same purpose, which I think the clergy ought to have done their best to prevent, and I hope they did so. Here has the *Irish* speaker † been soliciting to get the *Test Clause* repealed by an act here ; for which I hope he will be impeached when your parliament meets again, as well as for some other things I could mention. I hope you will be of my opinion in what I have told the archbishop about those addresses. And if his grace and clergy of the province send an address, I desire I may present

\* Dr. *Thomas Milles*.

† *Allen Broderick*, Esq; afterwards lord chancellor of *Ireland*, and created lord *Middleton* of that kingdom.



it, as one of the chapter, which is the regular way ; but I beg you will endeavour among you, that the church of *Ireland* gentlemen may send an address to set the queen and court right about the test ; which every one here is of opinion you should do ; or else I have reason to fear it will be repealed here next session ; which will be of terrible consequence, both as to the thing and the manner, by the parliament here interfering in things purely of *Ireland*, that have no relation to any interest of theirs.

If you will not use me as your book-buyer, make use of Sir *Andrew Fountain*, who sends you his humble service, and will carry over a cargo as big as you please towards the end of summer, when he and I intend my lord lieutenant \* shall come into our company without fail, and in spite of *Irish* reports, that say we shall come no more.

I reckon by this time you have done with masons and carpenters, and are now beginning with upholsterers, with whom you may go on as slow and soberly as you please.

\* *Thomas, earl of Pembroke.*

But



But pray keep the garden till I come. I  
am, Sir, your most faithful humble servant,

J. S W I F T.

Direct the inclosed, and deliver it to the greatest person in your neighbourhood.

## L E T T E R VII.

Dr. S W I F T to Dr. S T E R N E.

S I R,

June 1708.

**I** W R I T to you some weeks ago, and inclosed (as now) a letter to your neighbour. But I fear it was kidnapp'd by some privateer, or else you were lazy or forgetful; or, which is full as good, perhaps it had no need of an answer, and I would not for a good deal, that the former had miscarried, because the inclosed was wonderfully politic, and would have been read to you, as this, I suppose, will, though it be not half so profound. Now are you gone some summer ramble, and will not receive this in a fortnight; nor send the inclosed in as much more. I have often begged you would let me buy you one fifty pounds worth of books; but now I have been here so long, I believe you will have reason to apprehend I may sink the money. Sir A.

*Foun-*



*Fountain*\* will never be satisfied till he gets into the little room, with the three *Ashes*, the bishop of *Killala*, and myself, to be happy at the expence of your wine and conversation. Here is a fight of two girls † joined together at the back, which, in the news-monger's phrase, causes a great many speculations; and raises abundance of questions in divinity, law, and phyfic. The boys of our town are mighty happy, for we are to have a beheading next week ‡, unless the queen will interpose her mercy. Here is a long lampoon publicly printed, abusing by name at length, all the young people of quality, that walk in the park. These are effects of our liberty of the press.

I long to know what is become of your new house, whether there is yet a union between that and the little one, or whether the work stops for want of money; and

\* *Dr. Swift*, in 1708, used to lodge with Sir *A. Fountain*, when he was in *London*.

† 'There is a particular account of them in the *Philosophical Transactions*, vol. 50. part 2. p. 311, for the year 1758.'

‡ 'Of *Edward*, lord *Griffin*, who had been attainted by outlawry for high treason, committed in the reign of king *William*, and was, on the 15th of May, 1708, ordered for execution; but reprieved from time to time, till his death.'



you pretend it is only, that the boards may have time to season. We are still in pain for Mr. *Dopping's* being in one of the packet boats that were taken. He and many more have vowed never to return to *England* again; which, if they forget, they may properly be called vows written in water.

Pray, Sir, let me hear from you some time this hot weather, for it will be very refreshing; and I am confined by business to this ugly town, which, at this season of the year, is almost insufferable. I am, Sir, your most faithful, humble servant,

J. S.

## LETTER VIII.

ANTHONY HENLEY, Esq; \* to  
Dr. SWIFT.

Grange, Sept. 16, 1708.

**Y**ESTERDAY the weather-glass was at 28 inches, which is lower than ever I saw it; the wind was at east, a very dull

\* ‘Of the *Grange* in the county of *Southampton*, member of parliament for *Melcomb Regis*. He was a person of great abilities and learning; who mixed humour in the most serious debates. He was father of the present lord high chancellor, *Robert earl of Northington*.’

quarter;



quarter; the garden so wet, there was no looking into it; and I myself, by consequence, in the spleen. Before night the glass rose, the wind changed, the garden dried, I received your letter, and was as well as ever I was in my life, to my thinking, though perhaps you may think otherwise. The reason why your letter was so long a coming to my hands was, its being directed to me near *Winchester*; and *Alresford* is the post-town nearest to me. If the officers should come to you, Doctor, if you want a security, that your children shan't be troublesome to the parish, pray make use of me. I'll stand 'em all, though you were to have as many as the *Holland* countess. We have had a tedious expectation of the success of the siege of *Lisle*: the country people begin to think there is no such thing, and say the news-papers talk of it to make people bear paying taxes a year longer. I don't know how *Steele*\* will get off of it; his veracity is at stake in *Hants*. Pray desire him to take the town, though he should leave the citadel for a nest-egg. I haven't the honour to know colonel *Hunter*; but I never saw him in so

\* 'Who was writer of the *Gazette*.'



good company as you have put him, lord *Halifax*, Mr. *Addison*, Mr. *Congreve*, and the *Gazetteer*. Since he is there, let him stay there. Pray, Doctor, let me know whether writing letters be talking to one's self, or talking to other folks; for I think the world has settled it, that talking to one's self, which offends no body, is madness; and talking to other people, which generally is not quite so harmless, is wit, or good breeding, or religion, or—I wont write a word more till you have satisfied me what I have been doing all this while. I am sure one need not have writ two pages to introduce my assuring you, that I am your most affectionate humble servant,

A. HENLEY.

## LETTER IX.

ANTHONY HENLEY, Esq; to  
Dr. SWIFT.

DEAR DOCTOR, Nov. 2, 1708.

**T**HOUGH you won't send me your broom-stick †, I'll send you as good a reflection upon death as even *Adrian's* him-

† Meditations on a broomstick, written by Dr. *Swift* about this time.

self,



self, though the fellow was but an old farmer of mine, that made it. He had been ill a good while; and when his friends saw him a going, they all came croaking about him as usual; and one of them asking him how he did? he replied, “In great pain. If I could but get this same breath out of my body, I’d take care, by G—, how I let it come in again.” This, if it were put in fine *Latin*, I fancy would make as good a sound as any I have met with. I am your most affectionate humble servant,

A. HENLEY.

## LETTER X.

Mr. HENLEY to Dr. SWIFT.

Εὐδαιμονεῖν καὶ Εὐπράττειν.

REVEREND SIR,

IT is reported of the famous *Regiomontanus*, that he framed an eagle so artfully of a certain wood, that upon the approach of the emperor *Maximilian* to the opulent city of *Neuremberg*, it took wing and flew out of the gates to meet him, and (as my author has it) appeared as though alive. Give me leave to attribute this excellent invention to the vehement desire he had to



entertain his master with something extraordinary, and to say with the poet,

*Amor addidit alas.*

I am trying a like experiment, whether I cannot make this composition of old rags, galls, and vitriol fly to *Dublin*; and if (as the moving lion, which was composed by an *Italian* chymist, and opened his breast, and shewed the imperial arms painted in its heart) this could disclose itself, and discover to you the high esteem and affection I have for you, I should attain my end; and not only sacrifice an hecatomb, but cry out, with extatic *Archimedes*, εὐρηκα.

I should not have presumed to imagine, that you would deign to cast an eye on any thing proceeding from so mean an hand as mine, had I not been encouraged by that character of candour and sweetness of temper, for which you are so justly celebrated and esteemed by all good men, as the *Deliciæ humani generis*; and I make no question, but, like your predecessor, an emperor again, you reckon every day as lost, in which you have not an opportunity of doing some act of beneficence. I was moreover emboldened by the adage, which does not stick to affirm, that one of the most despi-



despicable of animals may look upon the greatest of queens; as it has been proved to a demonstration by a late most judicious author, whom (as I take it) you have vouchsafed to immortalize by your learned lucubrations \*. And as proverbs are the wisdom of a nation, so I take the naturalizing such a quantity of very expressive ones, as we did by the act of union, to be one of the considerablest advantages we shall reap from it: and I do not question but the nation will be the wiser for the future.

But I have digressed too far, and therefore resume my thread. I know my own unworthiness to deserve your favour; but let this attempt pass on my account for some merit,

*In magnis voluisse sat est.*

And tho' all cannot be sprightly like *F—d*, wise like *T—rs*, agreeable like *B—th*, polite like *P—r—de*, or, to sum up all, tho' there be but one *Phœnix*, and one *Lepidissimus Homuncio*, *T—p—m*; yet since a cup of cold water was not an unacceptable present to a thirsty emperor, I may flatter myself, that this tender of my services (how mean soever) may not be con-

\* The lucubrations of *Isaac Bickerstaff*, in the *Tatler*.



temned; and, though I fall from my great attempt,

*Spero trovar pietà non che perdono,*  
as that mellifluous ornament of *Italy*, *Franciscus Petrarca*, sweetly has it.

Mr. *Crowder* I have often heard affirm, and the fine thinkers of all ages have constantly held, that much good may be attained by reading of history. And Dr. *Sloane* is of opinion, that modern travels are very behoveful towards forming the mind and enlarging the thoughts of the curious part of mankind.

Give me leave to speak a little from both these topics.

In the *Roman* triumphs, which were doubtless the most august spectacles that were ever seen, it was the constant custom, that the public executioner should be behind the conqueror, to remind him (says my author) from time to time, that these honours were transitory, and could not secure him from the severity of the laws.

Col. *Morrison* of the guards [he lives next door to *Tart-Hall*] his father was in *Virginia*, and being like to be starved, the company had recourse to a learned master of arts; his name was *Venter*: he advised  
4 them



them to eat one another *pour passer le tems*, and to begin with a fat cook-maid. She had certainly gone to pot, had not a ship arrived just in the nick with a quantity of pork, which appeased their hunger, and saved the wench's bacon.

To apply these; Did you never (when rioting in the costly dainties of my lord high admiral's \* table, when the polytasted wine excited jovial thoughts, and banished serious reflections) forget your frail mortal condition? Or when, at another time, you have wiped the point of a knife, or perhaps with a little spoon taken some *Attic* salt out of Mrs. F——'s cademat; and, as the poet sings,

*Qui sedens adversus identidem——*

*Speñtat et audit.*

Did you not think yourself *par Deo*? Pray God you did not; pray God you did not think yourself *superare divos*.

Confess the truth, Doctor, you did; confess it, and repent of it, if it be not too late: but, alas! I fear it is.

And now, methinks, I look down into that bog all flaming with bonnyclabber and usquebaugh; and hear you gnashing

\* Thomas, earl of Pembroke.



your teeth and crying, Oh ! what would I give now for a glass of that small beer, I used to say was four ! or a pinch of that snuff, which I used to say was the cursed'st stuff in the world ! and borrow as much as would lie on a shilling the minute after. Oh ! what would I give to have had a monitor in those moments to have put me in mind of the sword hanging by a twine-thread over my head, and to have cried in a voice as loud as *S—th—ll's*, *Memento, Doctor, quia Hibernus es, et in Hiberniam reverteris.*

Every man in the midst of his pleasures should remember the *Roman* executioner : and I have been assured, that had it not been for the unfortunate loss of his royal highness the prince \*, Sir *Charles Duncumb* † would have revived that useful ceremony, which might be very properly introduced in the lord mayor's cavalcade.

I would not be mistaken either in what has gone before, or in that which is to follow, as if I took you to be a belly-god, an *Apicius*, or him that wished his neck as long as a crane's, that he might have the

\* Of *Denmark*, who died *October* 28, 1708.

† Lord mayor of *London*, in 1708.



greater pleasure in swallowing. No, dear Doctor, far be it from me to think you *Epicuri de grege porcum*. I know indeed you are *Helluo*, but 'tis *librorum*, as the learned Dr. *Accepted Frewen*, some time archbishop of *York*, was; and *ingenii*, as the quaint Dr. *Offspring Blackall*, now bishop of *Exeter*, is. Therefore let us return to the use which may be made of modern travels, and apply Mr. *Morrison's* to your condition.

You are now cast on an inhospitable island; no mathematical figures on the sand, no *vestigia hominum* to be seen; perhaps at this very time reduced to one single barrel of damaged biscuit, and short-allowance even of salt-water. What's to be done? Another in your condition would look about; perhaps he might find some potatoes; or get an old piece of iron, and make an harpoon, and if he found *Higgon* sleeping near the shore, strike him and eat him. The western islanders of *Scotland* say, 'tis good meat; and his train oil, bottled till it mantles, is a delicious beverage, if the inhabitants of *Lapland* are to be credited.

But this I know is too gross a pabulum for one, who (as the camelion lives on air) has always hitherto lived on wit; and whose  
friends



friends (God be thanked) design he should continue to do so, and on nothing else. Therefore I would advise you to fall upon old *Joan*; eat, do, I live to bid thee! Eat *Addison* \*; and when you have eat every body else, eat my lord lieutenant † [he is something lean,] God help the while; and tho' 'twill, for aught I know, be treason, there will be no body left to hang you, unless you should think fit to do yourself that favour, which if you should, pray don't write me word of it, because I should be very sorry to hear of any ill that should happen to you, as being, with a profound veneration, one of the greatest of your admirers,

T. B. or any other two  
letters you like better.

Pray direct your answer to me, at the *Serjeant's Head* in *Cornwall*; or at Mr. *Sentiment's*, a Potty Carrier, in *Common Garden*, in the *Phbs*.

\* Then secretary to the earl of *Wharton*, lord lieutenant of *Ireland*.

† Earl of *Wharton*.

LET-



L E T T E R   X I.

\* WILLIAM, lord archbishop of *Dublin*, to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,      Dublin, Nov. 20, 1708.

I HAVE yours of the 9th instant, and if the scheme of alteration holds, as represented, I despair of our twentieth parts in the present method; yet I can't think it proper to move in any new course till the declaration of what is intended be more authentic. I have no good ground for my doubt; and yet in my own mind, I make some question, whether all things will be just as surmised. If I find this to be so in earnest, I will then endeavour to obtain an address to my lord treasurer, which, I suppose, has been hitherto wanting: but if the matter stick on any considerations not agreeable, there is an end of it. To deal freely, I have very little hope of succeeding any way; but it will not make things worse to try the experiment.

\* Doctor *William King*, archbishop of *Dublin*, author of the discourse on the *Origin of Evil*; of the *State of the Protestants in Ireland*, and several other valuable pieces.

I under-



I understand some dissenters from hence will apply to the parliament of *England* this session, to obtain a repeal of the test, and for a toleration on a larger foot than in *England*; and that a fund is raised, and agents appointed to solicit their affairs, by the presbyters of the north. I have had some intimation, that all dissenters are not of a mind in this point; the other sects, if I am rightly informed, being as much afraid of them as of us; and that they would rather be as they are, than run the hazard of coming under the *jus divinum* of presbytery. Something pleasant enough is said to have happened on this occasion: a certain person endeavoured to comfort them, and remove their jealousy, by telling them they needed not to fear; for that the greatest friends to dissenters, and who would be most zealous for toleration, never designed to establish any church, but only to destroy that, which had the protection of the laws. Whether this will give them satisfaction I can't tell; but am certain, that if any have so wicked a design, they will fail in it.

I am often alarmed with the fears of some good men, who would persuade me, that religion is in danger of being rooted  
out



out of the hearts of men; and they wonder to see me so sanguine in the cause. But I tell them, that I believe it is with religion as with paternal affection; some profligate wretches may forget it, and some may dose themselves so long with perverse thinking, as not to see any reason for it: but in spite of all the ill-natured and false philosophy of these two sorts of people, the bulk of mankind will love their children. And so it is, and will be with the fear of God and religion: whatever is general hath a powerful cause, though every one cannot find it out.

But I have forgot my dissenters: the reason of their applying in *Great Britain* is, because they see little reason to hope for success here; and if I can judge of the sense of gentlemen that compose the parliament, they never seemed to be farther from the humour of gratifying them.

As to your own concern, you see hardly any thing valuable is obtained any otherwise than by the government; and therefore if you can attend the next lord lieutenant, you, in my opinion, ought not to decline it. I assure myself that you are too honest to come on ill terms; nor do I believe



believe any will explicitly be proposed. I could give several reasons why you should embrace this, though I have no exception against your secretaryship \*; except that you may lose too much time in it, which, considering all things, you cannot so well spare at this time of the day.

As to my own part, I thank God, I was never much frightened by any alterations: neither king *James* nor the earl of *Tyrconnel* shocked me. I always comforted myself with the 112th psalm, 7th verse †. I never was a favourite of any government, nor have I a prospect of being so, though I believe I have seen forty changes; nor would I advise any friend to sell himself to any, so as to be their slave. I could write some other things, that you would desire to know; but pen and ink are dangerous tools in some mens hands, and I love a friend with an appetite. I am, &c.

W. D U B L I N.

\* To the embassy at *Vienna*.

† ‘He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.’

L E T-



## L E T T E R XII.

Dr. S W I F T to Dr. S T E R N E.

S I R,

Nov. 30, 1708.

I RECEIVED a letter from you the Lord knows when, for it has no date; but I conceive it to have been a month ago, for I met it when I came from *Kent*, where, and at *Epsom*, I passed about six weeks, to divert myself the fag-end of the summer, which proved to be the best weather we had. I am glad you made so good a progress in your building; but you had the emblem of industry in your mind, for the bees begin at the top and work downwards, and at last work themselves out of house and home, as many of you builders do.

You know before this the great revolution we have had at court\*; and that Dr. *Lambert* is chaplain to the lord lieutenant: the archbishop of *Canterbury*, several other bishops, and my lord treasurer him-

\* On the 25th of *November*, 1708, the earl of *Pembroke* was made lord high admiral, the earl of *Wharton* lord lieutenant of *Ireland*, and lord *Sommers* lord president of the council.



self would needs have it so. I made no manner of application for that post, upon certain reasons, that I shall let you know, if ever I have the happiness to see you again.

My lord *Sunderland* rallied me on that occasion, and was very well pleased with my answer, that I observed one thing in all new *ministries*: for the first week or two they are in a hurry, or not to be seen; and when you come afterwards, they are engaged. What I have to say of the public, &c. will be inclosed, which, I suppose, will be shewn you, and you will please to deliver as formerly. Lord *Pembroke* takes all things mighty well, and we pun together as usual; and he either makes the best use, or the best appearance with his philosophy of any man I ever knew; for it is not believed he is pleased at heart upon many accounts.

Sir *Andrew Fountain* is well, and has either writ to you last post, or designs it soon.

Dr. *Pratt* is buying good pennyworths of books for the college, and has made some purchases that would set you a longing. You have heard our mighty news is † ex-

† On the 11th of November, 1708, the duke of *Marlborough* and prince *Eugene* obliged the elector of *Bavaria* to raise the siege of *Brussels*.

treably



treamey dwindled in our last pacquets. However, we expected a very happy end of the campaign, which this sudden thaw and foul weather, begun here yesterday, will soon bring to an issue. I am, &c.

### L E T T E R XIII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR, Dublin, Feb. 10, 1708.

I RECEIVED yours of last *January* the 6th, and you will find but a sorry correspondent of me. I have been confined near two months this winter, and forbid pen and ink by my physician; though, I thank God, I was more frightened, as it happened, than hurt. I had a cholic about the year 96, that brought me to extremity, and all despaired of my life, and the news-letters reported me dead. It began at the same time of the year, and the same way it did then, and the winters were much alike; and I verily believe had I not had the assistance of my old physician, Sir *Patrick Dun* \*, I should have run the same course,

\* This gentleman founded three professorships in the university of *Dublin*, viz. theory and practice of physick, chirurgery and midwifery, pharmacy and the *Materia Medica*.



which I could not have supported. But with a little phyfic, and the *Spa* and *Bath* waters, I escaped without other hardships, than keeping at home; and so much for private affairs.

As to the public, I had a letter from my lord *Pembroke*, wherein he told me the first-fruits and twentieth parts were granted \*, and that my lord lieutenant will bring over the queen's letter for them. I returned him my thanks, and as soon as the order comes, he will have a public acknowledgement.

I have seen a letter †, that passes as from a member of the house, &c. I think your judgment concerning it is very just. But

\* It appears from a letter of the archbishops and bishops of *Ireland*, to Dr. *Hartstonge*, bishop of *Offory*, and Dr. *Lindsey*, bishop of *Killaloe*, inserted in this collection, that *Swift* was engaged to solicit the queen to exonerate the clergy of *Ireland* from paying the twentieth parts and first-fruits, upon which his acquaintance with Mr. *Harley* began. The process of his application may be traced by these letters, and he at length obtained a grant of the queen, which is dated *February 7, 1710*. The information, that the grant was obtained at the time this letter was written, 1708, though from lord *Pembroke*, was premature.

† 'In the third volume of Dr. *Swift's* works, is a letter from a member of the house of commons in *Ireland*, to a member of the house of commons in *England*, concerning the sacramental test, written in the year 1708, and republished in *Ireland* in 1715.'

pray



pray by what artifice did you contrive to pass for a whig? As I am an honest man, I courted the greatest whigs I knew, and could not gain the reputation of being counted one.

But you need not be concerned; I will engage you will lose nothing by that paper. I wish some facts had been well considered before vouched: if any one matter in it prove false, what do you think will come of the paper? In short, it will not be in the power of man to hinder it from a warm entertainment.

As to the test, I believe that matter is over for this season. I was much for dissolving this present parliament, and calling a new one this spring. I had a pretty good account of the future elections, which, as far as my acquaintance reached, were settled; and I was sure, that without great force and artifice, the new members would never have repealed the test; but I did not know what the influence of a lord lieutenant\* (when well acquainted in the kingdom, and who knew how to take his measures justly) might have effected, and we

\* *Thomas, earl of Wharton, had been appointed to that post on the 25th of November, 1708.*



know very well what force management and timing matters have ; and there is hardly any thing but powerful persuasions, terror, and ostentation of interest may effect, especially in popular elections. And, to confess the truth to you, I am not altogether easy in that matter yet, especially if things take any new turn in *England*. It is whispered, but I know not by what authority, that the queen herself was at the bottom of what passed in the house of commons with you, and that the ministry screened her in that affair, for reasons that may be guessed at.

I am wonderfully pleased at the good character you give Mr. *Addison* \*. If he be the man, that you represent him to be, (and I have confidence in your judgment,) he will be able to serve his lord † effectually, and procure himself love and respect here. I can't say it will be in my power to do him any service ; but my good wishes and endeavours shall not be wanting.

\* *Swift's* friendship for *Addison* continued inviolable, during the administration of *Oxford* and *Bolingbroke*, and with as much kindness, as when they used to meet at lord *Halifax's*, or lord *Sommers's*.

† The earl of *Wharton*, then lord lieutenant of *Ireland*.

Mr.



Mr. *Stoughton* preached a sermon \* here on the 30th of *January*, king *Charles's* martyrdom, that gives great offence: the government heard it, but I was ill at home, which dean *Sterne* will needs have a providence. If the representation I have of it be true, I am sure I should have suspended him, if it had cost me both my reputation and interest. I have represented what I have heard of it, and have discoursed my lord chancellor † about it, and told him of what consequence I think it to be, both to him and us, and that it should not pass without censure. I have not as yet seen my lord primate. Wise men are doing all they can to extinguish faction; and fools and elves are throwing fire-brands. Assure yourself this had an ill effect on the

\* ‘ Dr. *Swift*, in answer to this letter, dated *March* 6, 1708-9, printed in his works, writes thus: “ Mr. *Stoughton* is recommended for a chaplain to the lord lieutenant. His sermon is much recommended by several here. He is a prudent person, and knows how to time things: others of somewhat better figure are as wise as he. A bold opinion is a short, easy way to merit, and very necessary for those, who have no other.” It appears from *Boyer's Political State*, Vol. II. p. 639, that this sermon had been preached on the 30th of *January* 1705-6, at *Christ Church, Dublin*; and that it was burnt by the hands of the common hangman November 9, 1711.’

† ‘ Sir *Richard Cox*.’



minds of most here; for though they espouse the revolution, they heartily abhor forty-one. And nothing can create the ministry more enemies, and be a greater handle for calumny, than to represent them, and those that espoused them, to be such as murdered king *Charles* I. and such are all, that approve or excuse it.

As to your own affairs, I wish you could have come over chaplain as I proposed; but since a more powerful interest interposed, I believe you had best use your endeavours there; but if nothing happens before my lord lieutenant comes over, you had best make us a visit. Had you been here, I believe something might have been done for you before this. The deanery of *Down* is fallen, and application has been made for it to my lord lieutenant, but it yet hangs, and I know not what will become of it: but if you could either get into it, or get a good man with a comfortable benefice removed to it, it might make present provision for you. I have many things more to say; but they are so much of a piece with these I have writ already, that you may guess at them all by this sample. God be with you: amen.

WILLIAM DUBLIN.

L E T-



## L E T T E R XIV.

Mr. LE CLERC to Mr. ADDI-  
SON.

A Amsterdam, le 12, de Fevrier, 1709.

**J**E m'étois donné l'honneur de vous écrire, Monsieur, dès le commencement de cette année, pour vous prier sur tout d'une chose, qu'il me feroit important de savoir au plûtôt. Cependant je n'ai reçu aucune de vos nouvelles. J'ai appris seulement, que vous quittiez le poste, où vous étiez, pour aller en Irlande en qualité de secretaire de my lord *Wharton*. Je m'en réjoüis avec vous, dans la supposition, que ce dernier emploi vaut mieux que le précédent, quoique je sente bien, que je perdrai par votre éloignement. Je ne lasse pas de vous souhaiter toute sorte de satisfaction dans votre nouvel emploi, & de prier Dieu, qu'il vous donne un heureux succès en tout ce que vous entreprendres. Je vous avois prié, Monsieur, de m'envoyer le nom propre & les titres de my lord *Halifax*, & de lui demander même, si vous le trouviez à propos, la permission de lui dedier mon *Tite-Live*. Com-



me vous m'aviez marqué par Mr. *Philips*, que vous aviez oublié la feuille, qui me manquoit de recueil de Mr. *Rymer*, je vous avois mandé, que c'est la feuille 10 T. ou les 4 pages, qui précèdent immédiatement l'indice des noms, dans le tome I. Si vous l'avez eüe depuis, faites moi la grace de l'envoyer à Mess. *Toutton & Stui-guer*, bien enveloppée, & de mettre mon adresse au dessus. Je suppose, Monsieur, que cette lettre vous trouvera encore à *Londres*, parce qu'on dit, que my lord *Whar-ton* ne partira que vers le mois d'*Avril*. Il ne se passe rien de nouveau ici dans la re-publique des lettres, qui merite de vous être mandé. Les Jesuites de *Paris* ont condamné en termes tres-forts les sentimens du *P. Hardouin*, & l'ont contraint de les retracter d'une maniere honteuse. On verra quelle en fera la suite. Je voudrois pouvoir vous être utile ici à quelque chose : vous verriez par là, combien je suis, Monsieur, vôtre très humble & très obeïssant serviteur,

J. LE CLERC.

L E T-



## L E T T E R XV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,      Dublin, March 12, 1708.

THE business of the twentieth parts and first-fruits is still on the anvil. We are given to understand, that her majesty designs, out of her royal bounty, to make a grant of them for charitable uses, and that it is designed this grant should come over with his excellency the lord lieutenant. The bishops in this town at present thought it reasonable to apprise his excellency of the affair, and to address him for his favour in it, which accordingly is done by this post. We have sent with this address the representation made at first to her majesty about it; the reference to the commissioners of the revenue here, and their report, together with the memorial to the lord *Pembroke*. In that there is mention of the state of the diocese of *Dublin*, as a specimen of the condition of the clergy of *Ireland*, by which it will appear how much we stand in need of such a gift. This we could not well send to his excellency, because



cause it is very long, and we apprehend, that it might be improper to give him so much trouble at first, before he was any way apprised of the matter; but if you think, that his excellency may judge it agreeable, that it should be laid before him, I entreat the favour of you to apply to my lord *Pembroke's* secretary, with whom it is, for the original, or a copy of it, and present it to my lord lieutenant, or leave it with his secretary. I have engaged for you to my brethren, that you will be at this trouble; and there is a memorial to this purpose, at the foot of the copy of the representation made to the earl of *Pembroke*, transmitted with the other papers. What charges you are at upon this account, will be answered by me.

The good impression you have given me of Mr. *Addison*, my lord lieutenant's secretary, has encouraged me to venture a letter to him on this subject, which I have inclosed, and make you the full and sole judge, whether it ought to be delivered. I can't be competently informed by any here, whether it may be pertinent or no; but I may and do depend on your prudence in the case, who, I believe, will nei-



ther omit what may be useful, nor suffer me to do an officious or improper thing. I mix no other matter with this, besides what agrees with all occasions, the tender of the hearty prayers and wishes for you of, sir, your &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

The reversal of my lord *Slane's* \* outlawry makes a mighty noise through this kingdom: for ought I can remember, the destroying of our woollen manufactory did not cause so universal a consternation.

## LETTER XVI.

Dr. SWIFT to the lord primate of *Ireland* †.

MY LORD, London, March 24, 1708-9.

I AM commanded by his excellency the lord lieutenant to send the inclosed to your grace, in answer to a letter his excellency

\* ‘*Christopher Fleming, baron of Slane, having taken up arms for king James in 1688 in Ireland, where he was colonel of a regiment of foot, afterwards lost his estate, and was outlawed, till queen Anne reversed his attainder; upon which the house of commons of Ireland, on the 3d of June, 1709, unanimously resolved, that an address be made to the queen, “setting forth the fatal consequences of reversing the outlawries of persons attainted of treason for the rebellions in 1641 and 1688.” Lord Slane was in November, 1713. created by her majesty viscount Longford.*’

† Dr. *Narcissus Marsh*.

lately



lately received from your grace, and several bishops, relating to the first-fruits of *Ireland*. This will spare your grace and their lordships the trouble of any farther account from me. I shall therefore only add, that his excellency commands me to assure your grace of his hearty inclination in favour of the church of *Ireland*; and am, with great respect, my lord, your grace's most dutiful, and most obedient servant,

J. SWIFT.

# LETTER XVII.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT\*.

DEAR SIR, Dublin, April 22, 1709.

I AM in a very great hurry of business, but cannot forbear thanking you for your letter at *Chester*, which was the only entertainment I met with in that place. I hope to see you very suddenly, and will wait on our friend the bishop of *Clogher* † as soon as I can possibly. I have had just time to tell him, *en passant*, that you were well. I long to see you, and am, dear sir,

\* Mr. *Addison* at this time was secretary to the earl of *Wharton*, lord lieutenant of *Ireland*.

† Dr. *St. George Ashe*.

your



your most faithful, and most obedient servant,  
J. ADDISON.

We arrived yesterday at *Dublin*.

## LETTER XVIII.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT.

DEAR SIR, Dublin Castle, June 25, 1709.

I AM heartily glad to hear you are so near us. If you will deliver the inclosed to the captain of the *Wolf*, I dare say he will accommodate you with all in his power. If he has left *Chester*, I have sent you a bill according to the bishop of *Clogher*'s desire, of whom I have a thousand good things to say. I do not ask your excuse about the yacht, because I don't want it, as you shall hear at *Dublin*: if I did, I should think myself inexcusable. I long to talk over all affairs with you, and am, dear sir, your's most entirely,

J. ADDISON.

P. S. The yacht will come over with the acts of parliament, and a convoy about a week hence, which opportunity you may lay hold of, if you do not like the *Wolf*. I will give orders accordingly,

LET-



## L E T T E R XIX.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT.

DEAR SIR, Nine o'clock Monday morning \*.

I THINK it very hard I should be in the same kingdom with Dr. *Swift*, and not have the happiness of his company once in three days. The bishop of *Clogher* intends to call on you this morning, as will your humble servant in my return from *Chappel Izzard*, whither I am just now going. I am your humble servant,

J. ADDISON.

## L E T T E R XX.

Earl of HALIFAX † to Dr. SWIFT.

S I R,

Oct. 6, 1709.

OUR friend Mr. *Addison* telling me that he was to write to you to-night, I could

\* This letter has no date: but it must have been-written soon after Dr. *Swift*'s arrival in *Dublin*, which happened on the 30th of *June* 1709. He set sail from *Liverpool* for *Ireland* on the 29th of *June*, and landed at *Ringsend* the next day; and on the 8th of *September* following, Mr. *Addison* returned to *England* with the lord lieutenant.

† *Charles*, earl of *Halifax*: he was auditor of the exchequer.



not let his packet go away without telling you how much I am concerned to find them returned without you. I am quite ashamed for myself and my friends, to see you left in a place so incapable of tasting you ; and to see so much merit, and so great qualities, unrewarded by those, who are sensible of them. Mr. *Addison* and I are entered into a new confederacy, never to give over the pursuit, nor to cease reminding those, who can serve you, till your worth is placed in that light it ought to shine \*. Dr. *South* holds out still †, but he cannot be immortal. The situation of his prebend would make me doubly concerned in serving you. And upon all occasions, that shall offer, I will be your constant solicitor, your sincere admirer, and your unalterable friend. I am your most humble and obedient servant,

HALIFAX.

\* Dr. *Swift* wrote thus on the back of a letter, *I kept this letter as a true original of courtiers and court promises*: and in the first leaf of a small printed book, intitled, *Poesies Chretiennes de Mons. Jollivet*, he wrote these words, " Given me by my lord *Halifax*, May 3, 1709. " I begged it of him, and desired him to remember it " was the only favour I ever received from him or his " party."

† " He was prebendary of *Westminster*; but did not die till July 8, 1716."

L E T-



## L E T T E R XXI.

Mr. S T E E L E to Dr. S W I F T.

Lord Sunderland's Office,

D E A R S I R,

Oct. 8, 1709.

**M**R. secretary *Addison* went this morning out of town, and left behind him an agreeable command for me, *viz.* to forward the inclosed, which lord *Halifax* sent him for you. I assure you no man could say more in praise of another, than he did in your behalf at that noble lord's table on *Wednesday* last. I doubt not but you will find by the inclosed the effect it had upon him. No opportunity is omitted among powerful men, to upbraid them for your stay in *Ireland*. The company that day at dinner were lord *Edward Russel*, lord *Essex*, Mr. *Maynwaring*, Mr. *Addison*, and myself. I have heard such things said of that same bishop of *Clogher* with you, that I have often said he must be entered *ad eundem* in our house of lords. Mr. *Phillips* \* dined with me yesterday; he is still a shepherd, and walks very lonely through

\* *Ambrose Phillips*, the author of the *Distressed Mother*, a tragedy, and some pastorals, &c.

this



this unthinking crowd in *London*. I wonder you do not write sometimes to me.

The town is in great expectation from *Bickerstaffe* \* ; what passed at the election for his first table being to be published this day sevensnight. I have not seen *Ben Tooke* † a great while, but long to usher you and yours into the world. Not that there can be any thing added by me to your fame, but to walk bare-headed before you. I am, Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

RICHARD STEELE.

\* *Isaac Bickerstaffe* was the name assumed by the author of the *Tatler*, of which the Dean wrote No. 66, on eloquence and action, and the numbers 67, 74 and 81, on the chamber of fame, in which were to be three tables; the first to contain twelve persons, the second twenty, and the third one hundred. The election here alluded to is of the twelve persons for the first table, public notice having been given from the *Grecian* coffee-house in the *Tatler* of the 29th of *September* 1709, that on *Saturday* the 15th of *October* next, the author would settle his first table of Fame, requesting all, that had competent knowledge, to send in lists of such twelve persons as they imagined to be qualified for that pre-eminence. The twelve selected by the author are, *Alexander, Homer, Julius Cæsar, Socrates, Aristotle, Virgil, Cicero, Hannibal, Pompey, Cato of Utica, Augustus, and Archimedes*.

† The bookseller,



## L E T T E R XXII.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT.

S I R, St. James's Place, April 11, 1710.

I HAVE run so much in debt with you, that I do not know how to excuse myself, and therefore shall throw myself wholly upon your good nature; and promise, if you will pardon what is passed, to be more punctual with you for the future. I hope to have the happiness of waiting on you very suddenly at *Dublin*, and do not at all regret the leaving of *England*, whilst I am going to a place, where I shall have the satisfaction and honour of Dr. *Swift's* conversation. I shall not trouble you with any occurrences here, because I hope to have the pleasure of talking over all affairs with you very suddenly. We hope to be at *Holyhead* by the 30th instant. Lady *Wharton* stays in *England*. I suppose you know, that I obeyed your's, and the bishop of *Clogher's* commands, in relation to Mr. *Smith*; for I desired Mr. *Dawson* to acquaint you with it. I must beg my most  
humble



humble duty to the bishop of *Clogher*. I heartily long to eat a dish of bacon and beans in the best company in the world. Mr. *Steele* and I often drink your health.

I am forced to give myself airs of a punctual correspondence with you in discourse with your friends at St. *James's* Coffee-House, who are always asking me questions about you, when they have a mind to pay their court to me, if I may use so magnificent a phrase. Pray, dear Doctor, continue your friendship towards me, who love and esteem you, if possible, as much as you deserve. I am ever, dear Sir, your's entirely,

J. ADDISON.

## LETTER XXIII.

Dr. SWIFT to Dr. STERNE, (with a proxy for his appearance as prebendary of *Dunlavin*, at the archbishop's visitation.)

S I R,

Laracor, April 17, 1710.

YOU have put me a under necessity of writing you a very scurvy letter, and in a very scurvy manner. It is the want of



horses, and not of inclination, that hinders me from attending on you at the chapter. But I would do it on foot to see you \* visit in your own right; but if I must be visited by proxy, by proxy I will appear. The ladies of St. *Mary's* delivered me your commands; but Mrs. *Johnson* had dropped half of them by the shaking of her horse. I have made a shift, by the assistance of two civilians, and a book of precedents, to send you the jargon annexed, with a blank for the name and title of any prebendary, who will have the charity to answer for me. Those two words, *gravi incommodo*, are to be translated, the want of a horse. In a few days I expect to hear the two ladies lamenting the flesh-pots of *Cavan-street*. I advise them, since they have given up their title and lodgings of St. *Mary's*, to buy each of them a palfrey, and take a squire, and seek adventures. I am here quarrelling with the frosty weather, for spoiling my poor half dozen of blossoms. *Spes anni collapsa ruit*: Whether these words be

\* Dr. *Sterne* was then vicar-general of the diocese of *Dublin*, and was to visit the clergy in the absence of the archbishop.

mine,



mine, or *Virgil's*, I cannot determine. I am this minute very busy, being to preach to-day before an audience of at least fifteen people, most of them gentle, and all simple.

I can send you no news; only the employment of my parishioners may, for memory-sake, be reduced under these heads, Mr. *Percival* is ditching, Mrs. *Percival* in her kitchen; Mr. *Wesley* switching; Mrs. *Wesley* stitching; Sir *Arthur Langford* riching, which is a new word for heaping up riches. Well, Sir, long may you live the hospitable owner of good bits, good books, and good buildings. The bishop of *Clogher* would envy me for those three B's \*. I am your most obedient, humble servant,

J. S W I F T.

L E T T E R XXIV.

Sir ANDREW FOUNTAIN to  
Dr. S W I F T.

June 27, 1719.

I NEITHER can nor will have patience any longer; and, *Swift*, you are a confounded son of a ——. May your half acre turn

\* 'Viz. bits, books, and buildings.'



to a bog, and may your willows perish ; may the worms eat your *Plato*, and may *Parvisole* \* break your snuff-box. What ! because there is never a bishop in *England* with half the wit of *St. George Ashe*, nor ever a secretary of state with a quarter of *Addison's* good sense ; therefore you can't write to those, that love you, as well as any *Clogher* or *Addison* of them all. You have lost your reputation here, and that of your bastard, the *Tatler*, is going too ; and there is no way left to recover either, but your writing. Well ! 'tis no matter ; I'll e'en leave *London*. *Kingsmill* is dead, and you don't write to me. Adieu.

# LETTER XXV.

Mr. ADDISON to Dr. SWIFT.

DEAR SIR, Dublin Castle, July 23, 1710.

**A**BOUT two days ago I received the inclosed, that is sealed up, and yesterday that of my friend *Steele*, which requiring a speedy answer, I have sent you express. In the mean time I have let him know, that you are out of town, and that he may

\* The Dean's steward.

expect



expect your answer by the next post. I fancy he had my lord *Halifax's* authority for writing. I hope this will bring you to town. For your amusement by the way, I have sent you some of this day's news; to which I must add, that Drs. *Byssé* \* and *Robinson* † are likely to be the bishops of *Bristol* and *St. David's*: that our politicians are startled at the breaking off the negociations, and fall of stocks; infomuch that it is thought they will not venture at dissolving the parliament in such a crisis. I am ever, dear Sir, your's entirely,

J. ADDISON.

Mr. *Steele* desires me to seal your's before I deliver it, but this you will excuse in one, who wishes you as well as he, or any body living can do.

\* ‘ *Philip*, first made bishop of *St. David's*, and then of *Hereford*.’

† ‘ *John*: he was consecrated bishop of *Bristol*, November 19, 1710, and translated to the see of *London* in March 1713-14.’



## L E T T E R XXVI.

IRISH BISHOPS to the bishops of  
OSSORY and KILLALOE.

Dublin, Aug. 31, 1710.

OUR VERY GOOD LORDS,

WHEREAS several applications have been made to her majesty about the first-fruits and twentieth parts, payable to her majesty by the clergy of this kingdom, beseeching her majesty, that she would be graciously pleased to extend her bounty to the clergy here, in such manner, as the convocation have humbly laid before her majesty, or as her majesty shall, in her goodness and wisdom, think fit; and the said applications lie still before her majesty; and we do hope, from her royal bounty, a favourable answer.

We do therefore entreat your lordships to take upon you the solicitation of that affair, and to use such proper methods and applications, as you in your prudence shall judge most like to be effectual. We have likewise desired the bearer, Dr. *Swift*, to concern himself with you, being persuaded of his diligence and good affection: and we desire,



desire, that if your lordships occasions require your leaving *London* before you have brought the business to effect, that you would leave with him the papers relating to it, with your directions for his management in it, if you think it adviseable so to do. We are your lordships most humble servants and brethren,

NARCISSUS ARMAGH.  
WILL. DUBLINIENSIS.  
W. CASSEL.  
W. MEATH.  
W. KILDARE.  
WILLIAM KILLALA.

To the Right Rev. fathers in God, *John* lord bishop of *Offory*, and *Thomas* lord bishop of *Killaloe*.

## L E T T E R XXVII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y\*.

Chester, Sept. 2, 1710.

*J O E* will give an account of me till I got into the boat, after which the rogues made a new bargain, and forced me to give them two crowns, and talked as if we

\* Mrs. *Dingley* was a relation of Sir *William Temple*, who accompanied Mrs. *Johnson* to *Ireland*, when she went thither by *Swift's* invitation, about the year 1701.

should



should not be able to overtake any ship; but in half an hour we got to the yacht, for the ships lay by to wait for my lord lieutenant's steward. We made our voyage in fifteen hours just. Last night I came to this town, and shall leave it, I believe, on *Monday*: the first man I met in *Chester* was Dr. *Raymond* \*. He and Mrs. *Raymond* were here about levying a fine, in order to have power to sell their estate. I got a fall off my horse, riding here from *Parkgate*, but no hurt; the horse understanding falls very well, and lying quietly till I got up. My duty to the bishop of *Clogher* †. I saw him returning from *Dunlary*; but he saw not me. I take it ill he was not at convocation, and that I have not his name to my powers. I beg you will hold your resolution of going to *Trim*, and riding there as much as you can. Let the bishop of *Clogher* remind the bishop of *Killala* to send me a letter, with one inclosed to the bishop of *Litchfield* ‡. Let all, who write to me, inclose to *Richard Steele*, Esq; at his office at the Cock-

\* Vicar of *Trim*.

† 'Dr. St. George Ashe.'

‡ 'Dr. John Hough.'



*pit*, near *Whitehall*. My lord *Mountjoy* is now in the humour, that we should begin our journey this afternoon, so that I have stole here again to finish this letter, which must be short or long accordingly. I write this post to Mrs. *Wesley*, and will tell her, that I have taken care she may have her bill of one hundred and fifteen pounds whenever she pleases to send for it; and in that case I desire you will send it her inclosed and sealed. God almighty bless you, and for God's sake be merry and get your health. I am perfectly resolved to return as soon as I have done my commission, whether it succeeds or no. I never went to *England* with so little desire in my life. If Mrs. *Curry* makes any difficulty about the lodgings, I will quit them.

The post is just come from *London*, and just going out, so I have only time to pray to God to bless you, &c.

## L E T T E R XXVII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR, Dublin, Sept. 16, 1710.

I RECEIVED your's, by the last packets, of *September* the 9th; and because  
you



you have missed the two bishops, I send you, with this, the papers relating to the first-fruits, and twentieth parts. I send them in two bundles, being too big for one letter. The bishops, so far as I can learn from the bishop of *Ossory*, have not made any step since I left *London*. I will endeavour to get you a letter from the bishops to solicit that affair. In the mean time, open the letter to the two bishops, and make use of it as occasion shall serve. The scheme I had laid for them is crossed by my lord treasurer's \* being out; though, perhaps, that would not have done; but her majesty's promise I depended on, and I had engaged the archbishop of *York* in it. When he comes to *London*, I will give you a letter to him. I can likewise find means, I believe, to possess my lord *Shrewsbury* and Mr. *Harley*, with the reasonableness of the affair. I am not courtier enough to know the properness of the thing; but I had once an imagination to attempt her majesty herself by a letter, modestly putting her in mind of the matter; and no time so proper, as when there is no lord lieutenant

\* ' The earl of *Godolphin* had resigned his staff, *August* 8, 1710.'



of *Ireland*, which perhaps may be soon; but this needs advice.

There are great men here as much out of humour, as you describe your great *visitee* \* to have been; nor does the good news from *Spain* † clear them. I believe, however, they are glad at it, though another would have served their occasions as well.

I do not apprehend any other secret in all this affair, but to get whigs out of all places of profit and trust, and to get others in them. As for peace it must be on no other terms than the preliminaries; and you'll find a tory parliament will give money as freely, and be as eager to prosecute the war, as the whigs were, or they are not the wise men I take them to be. If they do so, and take care to have the money well disposed of when given, they will break the king of *France's* heart, and the whigs together, and please the nation ‡. There's an ugly accident, that happens here in

\* 'Probably the earl of *Godolphin*, who was, perhaps, much visited by his friends and party, after the resignation of his staff of lord treasurer.'

† 'Probably of the battle near *Saragoza*, in which king *Charles* of *Spain* gained a complete victory over his competitor king *Philip*, on the 10th of *August*, 1710.'

‡ 'This opinion of so great and good a man as *Dr. King* deserves particular attention.'



relation to our twentieth parts and first-fruits : at *Midsummer*, 1709, there was ready money in the treasury, and good solvent debts to the queen to the value of 70000 *l*. Now I am told, by the last week's abstract, there is only 223 *l*. in the treasury, and the army unpaid, at least uncleared for a year ; and all others, except pensioners, in the same condition. Now the great motive to prevail with her majesty to give the clergy the bounty petitioned for, was the clearness of the revenue here ; but if that be anticipated, perhaps it may make an objection. I will add no more, but my prayers for you. I am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

## L E T T E R XXVIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Dr. S T E R N E.

S I R,

London, Sept. 26, 1710.

**O**NE would think this an admirable place from whence to fill a letter ; yet when I come to examine particulars, I find they either consist of news, which you hear as soon by the public papers, or of persons and things, to which you are a stranger, and are the wiser and happier for being so.

Here



Here have been great men every day resigning their places; a resignation as sincere, as that of an usurer on his death-bed. Here are some, that fear being whipt, because they have broken their rod; and some that may be called to an account, because they could not cast one up. There are now not much above a dozen great employments to be disposed of, which, according to our computation, may be done in as many days. *Patrick* \* assures me, his acquaintance are all very well satisfied with these changes, which I take for no ill symptom, and it is certain the queen has never appeared so easy or so chearful. I found my lord *Godolphin* the worst dissembler of any of them, that I have talked to; and no wonder, since his loss and danger are greater, besides the addition of age and complexion. My lord lieutenant † is gone to the country, to bustle about elections. He is not yet removed; because they say it will be requisite to supersede him by a successor, which the queen has not fixed on; nor is it agreed whether the duke of *Shrewsbury* or *Ormond* ‡ stand fairest. I speak only for this

\* Dr. *Swift*'s servant.

† 'Earl of *Wharton*.'

‡ The duke of *Ormond* was appointed lord lieutenant, October 26, 1710.



morning, because reports usually change every twenty-four hours. Mean time the pamphlets and half sheets grow so upon our hands, it will very well employ a man every day from morning till night to read them, and so out of perfect despair I never read any at all. The whigs, like an army beat three quarters out of the field, begin to skirmish but faintly; and deserters daily come over. We are amazed to find our mistakes, and how it was possible to see so much merit where there was none, and to overlook it where there was so much. When a great minister has lost his place, immediately virtue, honour, and wit fly over to his successor, with the other ensigns of his office. Since I left off writing, I received a letter from my lord archbishop of *Dublin*, or rather two letters, upon these memorials. I think immediately to begin my soliciting, though they are not very perfect; for I would be glad to know, whether my lord archbishop wou'd have the same method taken here, that has been done in *England*, to settle it by parliament: but, however, that will be time enough thought of this good while.

I must here tell you, that the dean of *St. Patrick's* lives better than any man of quality



lity I know ; yet this day I dined with the comptroller \*, who tells me, he drinks the queen's wine to-day. I saw collector *Sterne*, who desired me to present his service to you, and to tell you he would be glad to hear from you, but not about business ; by which, I told him, I guessed he was putting you off about something you desired.

I would much rather be now in *Ireland* drinking your good wine, and looking over, while you lost a crown at penny ombre. I am weary of the caresses of great men out of place. The comptroller \* expects every day the queen's commands to break his staff. He is the last great household officer they intend to turn out. My lord lieutenant is yet in, because they cannot agree about his successor. I am your most obedient humble servant,

J. S W I F T.

\* *Sir John Holland, Bart.*



## L E T T E R XXX.

A Memorial of Dr. S W I F T to Mr.  
H A R L E Y, about the First-fruits.

Oct. 7, 1710.

**I**N *Ireland*, hardly one parish in ten hath any glebe, and the rest very small and scattered, except a very few; and these have seldom any houses.

There are in proportion more impropriations in *Ireland* than in *England*, which, added to the poverty of the country, make the livings of very small and uncertain value, so that five or six are often joined to make a revenue of 50*l. per annum*: but these have seldom above one church in repair, the rest being destroyed by frequent wars, &c.

The clergy, for want of glebes, are forced, in their own or neighbouring parish, to take farms to live on at rack rents.

The queen having some years since remitted the first-fruits to the clergy of *England*, the bishop of *Cloyne*, being then in *London*, did petition her majesty for the same favour in behalf of the clergy of *Ireland*, and received a gracious answer. But  
this



this affair, for want of soliciting, was not brought to an issue during the governments of the duke of *Ormond* and earl of *Pembroke*.

Upon the earl of *Wharton's* succeeding, Dr. *Swift* (who had solicited this matter in the preceding government) was desired by the bishops of *Ireland* to apply to his excellency, who thought fit to receive the motion as wholly new, and what he could not consider till he were fixed in the government, and till the same application were made to him as had been to his predecessors. Accordingly an address was delivered to his lordship, with a petition to the queen, and a memorial annexed from both houses of convocation; but a dispute happening in the lower house, wherein his chaplain was concerned, and which was represented by the said chaplain as an affront designed to his excellency, who was pleased to understand and report it so to the court, the convocation was suddenly prorogued, and all farther thoughts about the first-fruits let fall as desperate.

The subject of the petition was to desire, that the twentieth parts might be remitted to the clergy, and the first-fruits made a



fund for purchasing glebes and impropriations, and rebuilding of churches.

The twentieth parts are twelve-pence in the pound, paid annually out of all ecclesiastical benefices, as they were valued at the reformation. They amount to about 500 *l. per annum*; but of little or no value to the queen, after the officers and other charges are paid, though of much trouble and vexation to the clergy.

The first-fruits paid by incumbents upon their promotion amount to 450 *l. per annum*; so that her majesty, in remitting about 1000 *l. per annum* to the clergy, will really lose not above 500 *l.*

Upon *August 31, 1710.* the two houses of convocation being met to be farther prorogued, the archbishops and bishops conceiving there was now a favourable juncture to resume their applications, did, in their private capacities, sign a power to the said Dr. *Swift*, to solicit the remitting the first-fruits and twentieth parts.

But there is a greater burden than this, and almost intolerable, upon several of the clergy in *Ireland*; the easing of which, the clergy only looked on as a thing to be wished, without making it part of their petition.

The



The queen is impropiator of several parishes, and the incumbent pays her half-yearly a rent generally to the third part of the real value of the living, and sometimes half. Some of these parishes, by the increase of graziers, are seized on by the crown, and cannot pay the reserved rent. The value of all these impropriations are about 2000 *l. per annum* to her majesty.

If the queen would graciously please to bestow likewise these impropriations, to the church, part to be remitted to the incumbent, where the rent is large, and the living small, and the rest to be laid out in levying glebes and impropriations, and building of churches, it would be a most pious and seasonable bounty.

The utmost value of the twentieth parts, first-fruits, and crown-rents, is 3000 *l. per annum*, of which about 500 *l. per annum* is sunk among officers; so that her majesty, by this great benefaction, would lose but 2500 *l. per annum*.



## L E T T E R XXXI.

Dr. S W I F T to Archbishop K I N G.

M Y L O R D,

Oct. 10, 1710.

I HAD the honour of your grace's letter of *September* 16, but I was in no pain to acknowledge it; nor shall be at any other time, till I have something, that I think worth troubling you, because I know how much an insignificant letter is worse than none at all. I had likewise the memorial, &c. in another packet; and I beg your grace to inclose whatever packet you send me in a paper directed to Mr. *Steele*, and not for me at Mr. *Steele's*. I should have been glad the bishops had been here; though I take bishops to be the worst solicitors in the world, except for themselves. They cannot give themselves the little trouble of attendance that other men are content to swallow, else I am sure their two lordships might have succeeded easier than men of my level are likely to do.

As soon as I received the packet from your grace, I went to wait upon Mr. *Harley*. I had prepared him before by another  
hand,



hand, where he was very intimate, and got myself represented (which I might justly do) as one extremely ill used by the last ministry, after some obligations, because I refused to go certain lengths they would have had me. This happened to be, in some sort, Mr. *Harley's* own case. He had heard very often of me, and received me with the greatest marks of kindness and esteem, as I was whispered he would, and the more upon the ill usage I had met with. I sat with him two hours among company, and two hours we were alone, where I told him my business, and gave him the history of it, which he heard as I could wish, and declared he would do his utmost to effect it. I told him the difficulties we met with by lord lieutenants and their secretaries, who would not suffer others to solicit, and neglected it themselves. He fell in with me intirely, and said, neither they nor himself should have the merit of it, but the queen, to whom he would shew my memorial with the first opportunity, in order, if possible, to have it done in this *inter-regnum*. I said, the honour and merit, next to the queen, would be his; that it was a great encouragement to the bishops,



that he was in the treasury, whom they knew to be the chief adviser of the queen to grant the same favour in *England*; that consequently the honour and merit were nothing to him, who had done so much greater things; and that, for my part, I thought he was obliged to the clergy of *Ireland* for giving him an opportunity of gratifying the pleasure he took in doing good to the church. He took my compliment extremely well, and renewed his promises. Your grace will please to know, that besides the first-fruits, I told him of the crown-rents, and shewed the nature and value of them; but said, my opinion was, that the convocation had not mentioned them in their petition to the queen, delivered to lord *Wharton* with the address, because they thought the times would not then bear it; but that I looked on myself to have a discretionary power to solicit it in so favourable a juncture. I had two memorials ready of my own drawing up, as short as possible, shewing the nature of the thing, and how long it had been depending, &c. One of these memorials had a paragraph at the end relating at the crown-rents; t'other had none. In case he had received



received the motion of the crown-rents, I would have given him the last; but I gave him the other, which he immediately read, and promised to second both with his best offices to the queen. As I have placed that paragraph of the crown-rents in my memorial, it can do no harm, and may possibly do good. However, I beg your grace to say nothing of it; but, if it dies, let it die in silence, and we must take up with what can be got. I forgot to tell your grace, that when I said I was empowered, &c. he desired to see my powers; and then I heartily wished them more ample than they were; and I have since wondered what scruple a number of bishops could have, to empower a clergyman to do the church and them a service with out any imagination of interest for himself. Mr. *Harley* has invited me to dine with him to-day; but I shall not put him upon this discourse so soon. If he begins it himself, I shall add it at the bottom of this. He says, Mr. secretary *St. John* desires to be acquainted with me, and that he will bring us together. That may be a further help, though I told him I had no thoughts of applying to any but himself, wherein



wherein he differed from me, and desired I would speak to others, if it were but for form; and seemed to mean, as if he would avoid the envy of being thought to do such a thing alone. But an old courtier, with whom I consulted (an intimate friend) advised me still to let him know, I relied wholly upon his good inclinations, and credit with the queen. I find I am forced to say all this very confusedly, just as it lies in my memory; but perhaps it may give your grace a truer idea how matters are, than if I had writ in more order.

## L E T T E R   XXXII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,      Dublin, Oct. 16, 1718.

**I** HAVE before me yours of the 4th instant, which I received two posts ago. It was very grateful to me, and I hope it will have a good effect as to the church in general, and be of use to you in particular, which I heartily wish. My lord primate is out of town, and I have not seen him since I received your's, nor do I see any haste to communicate it to him; but  
in



in due time there will be no need to make a secret of it. I durst not have said any thing of it, if you had not given me the caution, lest any accident should intervene, to which all matters of this nature are liable. It puts a man out of countenance to raise expectations, if he should not be able to satisfy them. I understand that her majesty designed this should be her own act; but the good instruments, that have been subservient, ought not to be forgot; and, with God's help, I will do my endeavour that they shall not. I shall be impatient to see the accomplishment of this charitable work.

We are here in as great a ferment about choosing parliament-men, on a supposition that this parliament will be dissolved as soon as yours in *England*. And it is remarkable, that such as design to betray their country, are more diligent to make votes than those that have some faint intentions to serve it. It would prevent a great deal of needless charges and heats, if we certainly knew whether we should have a new parliament or no.

All business in chancery, and in truth all public business, is at a stand, by the in-

4

dispo-



disposition of my lord chancellor. I would tell you, that I am engaged most unhappily this night to execute this short letter; but the plain truth, I think, will do as well; which is, that I have no more to say but my prayers for you, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

LETTER XXXIII.

Power from the LORD PRIMATE and  
the ARCHBISHOP of DUBLIN.

S I R,

Oct. 24, 1710.

**W**E directed a letter to the bishops of *Offory* and *Killaloe* last *August*, desiring and empowering them to solicit the affair of our first-fruits and twentieth parts with her majesty, which has depended so long, notwithstanding her majesty's good inclinations, and several promises of the chief governors here, to lay our addresses before her majesty in the best manner. We were then apprehensive, that those bishops might return from *England* before the business could be effected; and therefore we desired them to concern you in it, having so good assurance of your ability, prudence, and fitness to prosecute such a matter. We find  
the



the bishops returned before you came to *London*, for which we are very much concerned; and judging this the most proper time to prosecute it with success, we intreat you to take the full management of it into your hands, and do commit the care of soliciting it to your diligence and prudence; desiring you to let us know from time to time what progress is made in it: and, if any thing farther be necessary on our part, on your intimation we shall be ready to do what shall be judged reasonable. This, with our prayers for you, and the good success of your endeavours, is all from, Sir, your affectionate humble servants and brothers,

NARCISSUS ARMAGH.  
WILL. DUBLIN.

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,      Dublin, Nov. 2, 1710.

THE declaration of his grace the duke of *Ormond* to be our lord lieutenant has stopped the further letters of recommendation designed to be sent to you, because  
the



the bishops were unwilling to solicit the affair of the first-fruits and twentieth parts by any other hand. I gave them some account how far you had been concerned in it; and they ordered a letter to Mr. *Southwell*, to give him an account, that the papers were in your hands, and to desire you to wait on him with them, and take your own measures in soliciting the affair. I am not to conceal from you, that some expressed a little jealousy that you would not be acceptable to the present courtiers, intimating that you were under the reputation of being a favourite of the late party in power \*. You may remember I asked you the question before you were engaged in this affair, knowing of what moment it was; and by the coldness I found in some, I soon perceived what was at the bottom. I am of opinion, that this conjuncture of circumstance will oblige you to exert yourself with more vigour; and if it should

\* Dr. *Swift* recommended himself to Mr. *Harley*, to whom he applied on this occasion, by getting himself represented as a person who had been extremely ill used by the last ministry, because he would not go certain lengths which they would have had him; this being in some sort Mr. *Harley's* own case. See his letter of Oct. 10, 1710.

succeed,



succeed, you have gained your point ; whereas, if you should fail, it would cause no reflections, that having been the fate of so many before you.

I can be very little useful to you at this distance ; but if you foresee any thing, wherein I may be serviceable to the business or yourself, you may command, Sir, yours, &c. WILL. DUBLIN.

### L E T T E R XXXV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR, Dublin, Nov. 30, 1710.

I RECEIVED your's of the 23d, by last packet. I was aware of what you observed, when the letter to his grace was signed ; but it was before I received your's of the 4th instant, wherein you tell me, that the business was in effect done ; nor could I have any certain prospect that it would be done from any intimation that I had before from you. You must know, that this was not the only thing displeased me in the letter ; it was drawn and signed by some before I saw it. I looked on it as a snare laid in my way ; nor must you wonder that some  
are



are better at making their court than serving the church, and can flatter much better than vote on the right side. Those, that had rendered themselves justly obnoxious by deserting his grace's \* friends and interest in notorious instances, think they have salved all by this early application, and perhaps it may prove so.

But if the matter be done, assure yourself it will be known, by whom and what means it was effected.

In the mean time, God forbid you should think of slackening your endeavours to bring it to perfection. I am yet under an obligation not to say any thing of the matter from your letter; and whilst so, it would be hard for me to refuse to sign such a letter as that you mention, or find a pretence for so doing: but when the business is done, the means and methods will likewise be known, and every body have their due that contributed to it.

I shall reckon nothing done till the queen's letter come here. You may remember how we were borne in hand in

\* 'The duke of *Ormond*, who was declared lord lieutenant of *Ireland*, Oct. 19, 1710.'



my lord *Pembroke's* time \*, that the queen had passed the grant, which, after a whole year's expectation and solicitation, proved only a mouthful of moonshine. But, if it succeeds better now, we must owe it, next to the queen's goodness and bounty, to the great care of the great man to whom you have applied, and to your management. It is seven or eight years since we first attempted this affair, and it passed through several hands; yet no progress was made in it, which was certainly due to the ill methods taken to put it forward; which, in truth, instead of promoting, obstructed it. At the very first motion, it was promised, and in a fair way; but the bishops here, out of their abundant deference to the government, made the same wrong step they would have done now; and we could never make the least progress since till now, and I pray God we have not put it back again.

You must not imagine, that it is out of any disaffection to you, or any distrust of your ability or diligence, that the bishops here were so cold in their employing you: but they reckoned on party; and though

† See Letter of *Feb.* 10, 1708, and the note.



several knew what you were, yet they-  
 imagined, and some vouched, that you  
 were looked on at court as engaged on the  
 other side; and you cannot do yourself a  
 greater service than to bring this to a good  
 issue, to their shame and conviction. I  
 heartily recommend you and your business  
 to God's care. I am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

LETTER XXXIV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

S I R,

Dublin, Dec. 16, 1710.

**T**HIS is to acknowledge the receipt of  
 yours of the 20th instant, which came not  
 to my hands till *Thursday* last, by reason of  
 winds, that kept the packets on the other  
 side.

I find the matter of our first-fruits, &c.  
 is talked of now. I reckon on nothing  
 certain till her majesty's letter comes in  
 form: and quære, why should you not  
 come and bring it with you? It would  
 make you a very welcome clergyman to  
*Ireland*, and be the best means to satisfy  
 mankind how it was obtained, although I  
 think



think it will be out of dispute. I am very well apprised of the dispatch you gave this affair, and well pleased, that I judged better of the person fit to be employed, than some of my brethren. But now it is done, as I hope it is effectually, they will assume as much as their neighbours, which I shall never contradict.

Things are taking a new turn here as well as with you; and I am of opinion, by the time you come here, few will profess themselves whigs. The greatest danger I apprehend, and which terrifies me more than perhaps you will be able to imagine, is the fury and indiscretion of some of our own people, who never had any merit, but by embroiling things; they did, and I am afraid will yet do mischief. You will soon hear of a great conspiracy discovered in the county of *Westmeath*. I was used to so many discoveries of plots in the latter end of king *Charles's* time, and the beginning of king *James's*, that I am not surpris'd at this discovery. I must not say any thing of it, till all the witnesses be examined: so many as have deposed are not decisive. The design of it is to shew all the gentlemen of *Ireland* to be a pack of desperate whigs,



whigs, ready to rise up in arms against her majesty for the old ministry, associating to that purpose. Whether it be for the interest of *Ireland* to have this believed you may judge; and sure there must be good evidence to make any reasonable man believe it. Mr. *Higgins* \* has drawn up the narrative, and sent it to *England*, and will pawn all he is worth to make it good. I heartily recommend you to God's favour, and am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN †.

\* ‘*Francis Higgins*, M. A. an *Irish* clergyman, extremely vehement against the whig party.’

† The archbishop, in another letter, gives this short account of the plot: That four or five gentlemen of small fortunes are said to have signed an association to fight up to the knees in blood against the new ministry. The discoverer is one *Langton*, who swore to it: he was a converted priest. Several of the gentlemen were his parishioners. Mr. *Meare's*, Mr. *Jones*, Mr. *Shoarn*, and Capt. *Newstead*, are in the number. This informer was a servant of Mr. *Meares's*, who told him, that Capt. *Newstead's* son brought the paper or parchment containing this association, as he believes; for he neither saw it nor heard it read. The servant being examined denies he ever saw any such paper, or knows any thing of it, or ever told Mr. *Langton* any such thing. This, with some seditious words spoken by some of those gentlemen at dinner in their cups, or conversation, so far as I can remember, is the sum of the evidence for the plot. A commission of oyer and terminer went down to the country to find bills against the gentlemen; but the grand jury would not find the bills upon that evidence.

L E T-



L E T T E R XXXVII.

Mr. Secretary S T. J O H N \* to Dr.  
S W I F T.

Sunday, past twelve, Jan. 7, 1710.

T H E R E are few things I would be more industrious to bring about than opportunities of seeing you. Since you was here in the morning, I have found means of putting off the engagement I was under for to-morrow; so that I expect you to dine with me at three o'clock. I send you this early notice, to prevent you from any other appointment. I am ever, Rev. Sir, your obedient humble servant,

H. S T. J O H N.

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mr. Secretary S T.  
J O H N.

S I R,

Jan. 7, 1710.

T H O U G H I should not value such usage from a secretary of state, and a great minister; yet when I consider the person

\* Then principal secretary of state for the southern provinces.



it comes from, I can endure it no longer. I would have you know, Sir, that if the queen gave you a dukedom and the garter to-morrow, with the treasury just at the end of them, I would regard you no more than if you were not worth a groat. I could almost resolve, in spight, not to find fault with my victuals, or be quarrelsome to-morrow at your table : But if I do not take the first opportunity to let all the world know some qualities in you, that you take most care to hide, may my right hand forget its cunning. After which threatening, believe me, if you please, to be with the greatest respect, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

### L E T T E R XXXIX.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,      Dublin, Jan. 9, 1710.

**I** RECEIVED yours of *December* the 30th by the last pacquets: it found me in the extremity of the gout, which is the more cruel, because I have not had a fit of it for two years and a half. I strain myself to give you an answer to-night, apprehending that as both my feet and knees



are already affected, my hands may perhaps be so by the next post; and then, perhaps, I might not be able to answer you in a month, which might lose me some part of the praise you give me as a good correspondent.

As to my lord primate, he is much better since he was put into the government; and I reckon his life may be longer than mine; but, with God's help, hereafter I will say more on this subject.

As to what is reported of Mr. *Stanhope's* obstinacy, I demur, till satisfied how far the kindness to him, as a manager, influences the report.

We have received an answer from his grace the duke of *Ormond* to our letter. It is in a very authentic and solemn form, *that his grace will take a proper time to lay our request before her majesty, and know her pleasure on it.* By which I conclude two things; first, that his grace is not informed of any grant her majesty has made; for if he had, he would have applied immediately and sent it; and then it would have passed for his, and he would have had the merit of it. Secondly, that his grace is in no haste about it. And therefore let me beseech you to



solicit and press it, and get the letter dated, as when first it was promised; but I confess I have still some scruple in my mind about it.

I acknowledge you have not been treated with due regard in *Ireland*, for which there is a plain reason, *prægravat artes infra sepositas*, &c. I am glad you meet with more due returns where you are; and as this is the time to make some use of your interest for yourself, do not forget it.

We have published here a character of the earl of *Wharton* \*, late lord lieutenant of *Ireland*. I have so much charity and justice as to condemn all such proceedings. If a governor behave himself ill, let him be complained of and punished; but to wound any man thus in the dark \* \* \* \* \* to them before the facts are found and agreed on. When this is over they may do what they please; and sure it will please them to see the crow stripped of her rappareed feathers. We begin to be in pain for the duke of *Marlborough*.

\* ‘ One by Dr. *Swift*, dated at *London*, *August* 30, 1710, is printed in his works, vol. XIII. first published in 1762.’



I hear an answer is printing to the earl of *Wharton's* character. Pray was there ever such licentiousness of the press as at this time? Will the parliament not think of curbing it? I heartily recommend you,  
 &c. WILL. DUBLIN.

## L E T T E R XL.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

Jan. 13, 1710.

MY gout gives me leave yet to answer yours of the 4th instant, which was very acceptable to me; because I find by it some farther steps are made in our business. I believe it will take up some time and thoughts to frame a warrant, and much more a patent for such an affair. Except your lawyers there be of another humour than ours here, they will not write a line without their fees; and therefore I should think it necessary some fund should be thought of to fee them. If you think this motion pertinent, I can think of no other way at present to answer it, than, if you think it necessary, to allow you to draw upon me, and my bill to this purpose, less than an 100<sup>l</sup>. shall be punctually answered.

I write



I write thus, because I have no notion how such a thing should pass the offices without some money ; and I have an entire confidence in you, that you will lay out no more than what is necessary.

I think your ministers perfectly right to avoid all enquiry, and every thing that would embroil them. To appeal to the mob, that can neither enquire nor judge, is a proceeding, that I think the common sense of mankind should condemn. Perhaps he may deserve this usage ; but a good man may fall under the same.

We expect a new parliament, and many changes ; but I believe some we hear of will not be.

Your observation of the two sentences is just. You will pardon this disjointed letter. I believe my respects are better than the expressions here. I am, &c.

W. DUBLIN.

L E T-



## L E T T E R XLI.

Mr. NELSON to Dr. SWIFT.

REVEREND SIR,

Afh-Wednesday,  
Feb. 22, 1710-11.

I BEG leave to put you in mind of the inscription, which you are to prepare for the earl of *Berkeley's* monument. My lady dowager has determined to have it in *Latin*; so that I hope you want no farther directions towards the finishing of it. The workman calls upon me for it, which is the reason of this trouble given you, by Rev. Sir, your most humble Servant,

ROBERT NELSON.

On the back of this letter is the following inscription in the hand-writing of Dr. *Swift*.

H. S. E.

*Carolus comes de Berkeley, vicecomes de Duresly, baro Berkeley de castro de Berkeley, dominus Moubray, Segrave, et Bruce; dominus locum tenans comitatus Glocestriæ; civitatis Glocestriæ feneschallus; guardianus de foresta de Dean; custos rotulorum comitatus de Surrey; et reginæ Annæ à secreti-*



cretioribus consiliis. Ob fidem spectatam, linguarum peritiam et prudentiam, a rege *Gulielmo III.* legatus et plenipotentiarus ad ordines *Fæderati Belgii* per quinque annos arduis reipublicæ negotiis sæliciter invigilavit. Ob quæ merita ab eodem rege (vivante adhuc patre) in magnatum numerum adscriptus et consiliarius a secretis factus; et ad *Hiberniam* secundus inter tres summos justiciarios missus; denique legatus extraordinarius designatus ad *Turcarum* imperium: et postea regnante *Anna* ad *Cæsarem* ablegatus: quæ munia ingravescente valetudine et senectute obire nequii.

Natus *Londini*, 1649.

Obiit, 1710.

Ætatis 62.

## L E T T E R XLII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

Dublin, March 17, 1710-11.

I RETURN you my thanks for yours of the 8th instant. I do not wonder, that you were in some confusion when you wrote it; for I assure you I read it with great horror, which such a fact is apt to create in every body, that is not hardened in wickedness.



ness. I received several other letters with narratives of the same, and seen some, that came to other hands; but none so particular, or that could be so well depended upon. I observe, that among them all, there is no account of the matters laid to *Guiscard's* charge, of his design, or how he came to be discovered. I suppose those are yet secrets, as it is fit they should be. I do remember something of this *Guiscard*, and that he was to head an invasion; and that he published a very foolish narrative \*; but neither remember exactly the time, or under what ministry it was, or who were his patrons. It seems convenient, that these should be known, because it is reported, that Mr. *Harley* and Mr. *St. John* were those, who chiefly countenanced him, and he their peculiar favourite †. One would think this should convince the world,

\* ‘ The Marquis de *Guiscard's* *Memoirs* were publish'd with a dedication to queen *Anne*, dated at the *Hague*, May 10, 1705.’

† See an account of *Guiscard* in the *Examiner*, No. xxxii. May 15, 1711, and a note, Vol. VIII. of *Bathurst's* edition of *Swift* in 1755. He was a *Frenchman*, and employed by the whig ministry, in the beginning of the queen's reign, and commanded an unsuccessful expedition against *France*. He afterwards endeavoured to make his peace at home, by acting here as a spy, and was detected.

that



that Mr. *Harley* is not in the *French* interest, but it has not yet had that effect with all: nay, some whisper the case of *Fenius Rufus*, and *Scevinus* in the 15th book of *Tacitus*, *accensis indicibus ad prodendum Fenium Rufum, quem eundem conscium et inquisitorem non tolerabant*. Mr. *St. John* is condemned for wounding *Guiscard*; and had he killed him, there would not have wanted some to suggest, that it was done on purpose, lest he should tell tales.

We had a strange piece of news by last packet, that the address to her majesty met with but a cold reception from one party in the house of commons; and that all the lords, spiritual and temporal, of that party, went out when it passed in the lords house. But I make it a rule, never to believe party news, except I have it immediately from a sure hand.

I was in hopes to have heard something of our first-fruits and twentieth parts; but I doubt that matter sleeps, and that it will be hard to awaken it.

You will expect no news from home. We eat and drink as we used to do. The parties are tolerably silent, but those for the late ministry seem to be united, keep much  
to-



together, and are so wise as not to make much noise ; nor have I heard any thing of their sentiments of late, only what has happened on this accident. I heartily recommend you to God's care. I am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

L E T T E R XLIII.

Lord P E T E R B O R O W to Dr.  
S W I F T.

For the Rev. Dr. S W I F T, Bishop of,  
or Dean of, &c.

S I R,

Vienna, April 18, 1711.

**I** H A V E often with pleasure reflected upon the glorious possibilities of the *English* constitution ; but I must apply to politics a *French* expression, appropriated by them to beauty : there is a (*je ne sçai quoi*) amongst us, which makes us troublesome with our learning, disagreeable with our wit, poor with our wealth, and insignificant with our power.

I could never despise any body for what they have not, and am only provoked, when they make not the right use of what they have. This is the greatest mortification to  
know



know the advantages we have by art and nature, and see them disappointed by self-conceit and faction. What patience could bear the disappointment of a good scheme by the *October* club?

I have with great uneasiness received imperfect accounts of disagreement amongst ourselves. The party we have to struggle with has strength enough to require our united endeavours. We should not attack their firm body like *Hussars*. Let the victory be secure before we quarrel for the spoils; let it be considered whether their yoke were easy, or their burden light. What! must there ever be in *St. Stephen's* chapel, a majority either of knaves or fools?

But seriously I have long apprehended the effects of that universal corruption, which has been improved with so much care, and has so fitted us for the tyranny designed, that we are grown I fear insensible of slavery, and almost unworthy of liberty.

The gentlemen, who give you no other satisfaction in politics than the appearances of ease and mirth, I wish I could partake with them in their good humour; but *Tockay* itself has no effect upon me while  
I see



I see affairs so unsettled ; faction so strong, and credit so weak ; and all services abroad under the truest difficulties by past miscarriages, and present want of money ; but we are told here, that in the midst of victory, orders are given to sound a parly, I will not say a retreat. Give me leave to tell the churchmen, there is not in \* \* \* \*.

I have rid the resty horse you say they gave me, in ploughed lands, till I have made him tame. I wish they manage the dull jades as well at home, and get them forwards either with whip or spur. I depend much upon the three you mention ; if they remember me with kindness, I am theirs, by the two strongest ties, I love them, and hate their enemies.

Yet you seem to wish me other work. It is time the statesmen employ me in my own trade, not theirs. If they have nothing else for me to subdue, let me command against that rank whiggish puppet-show. Those junto pigmies, if not destroyed, will grow up to giants. Tell *St. John* he must find me work in the old world or the new.

I find Mr. *Harley* forgets to make mention of the most important part of my



letter to him; which was to let him know, that I expected immediately for one Dr. *Swift*, a lean bishoprick, or a fat deanry. If you happen to meet that gentleman at dinner, tell him, that he has a friend out of the way of doing him good, but that he would, if he could, whose name is

PETERBOROW.

L E T T E R XLIV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

Dublin, April 19, 1711.

I HAD the favour of yours of the 10th instant, by which I understand how much I am obliged to you for the justice you did me as to the report, you let me know, was about to be printed in the Post-boy relating to Mr. *Harley*.

I think there is no man in this kingdom, on which such a report could be fixed with less colour of truth, having been noted for the particular regard I have always had for him. I have suffered in some cases too, for my zeal to defend him in the worst of times; for I confess I never could, with patience, bear the treatment he met with  
in



in Gregg's affair \*. The truth is, when I received the news of this last barbarous attempt made on him; I with indignation insulted some, with whom I used to dispute about the former case, and asked them, whether they would now suspect that he was in the conspiracy to stab himself? The turn they gave it was what I wrote to you, that they imagined he might be in it notwithstanding that; and that his discovering *Guiscard*, and pressing so hard on the examination, was the thing that provoked the man to such a degree of rage, as appeared in that villainous act. And they instanced the story of *Piso* in *Tacitus*, and the passage of *Rufus*. I know very well, that they did not believe themselves, and amongst other things I applied that passage of *Hudibras*, he, that beats out his brains, &c.† I be-

\* *William Gregg* was an under clerk to Mr. secretary *Harley* in 1708, and was detected in a treasonable correspondence. When he was indicted, he pleaded guilty; which gave occasion to Mr. *Harley's* enemies to insinuate, that he was privy to Gregg's practices, and had, by assurances of pardon, prevailed upon him to plead guilty, in order to prevent the examination of witnesses. When Gregg was at length executed, he left a paper behind him, in which Mr. *Harley* was fully and particularly justified.

\* But he that dashes out his brains,  
The devil's in him, if he feigns.



lieve I have told this passage to several as an example, to shew into what absurdities the power of prejudice, malice and faction will lead some men, I hope with good effect; and added, as several gentlemen that heard me can witness, that it was a strange thing, that Mr. *Harley* should discover *Gregg*, and have him hanged, and yet be suspected to be partaker of his crime; but altogether unaccountable, that in a cause, wherein his life was so barbarously struck at, it was a thousand to one if he escaped, he should still be under the suspicion of being a party with his murtherer; so that I could never imagine, that any one should report, that I spoke my own sense in a matter wherein I expressed so great an abhorrence, both of the fact, and the vile comment made upon it.

As to any speech at the meeting of the clergy, or any reprimand given me by any person on this account, it is all, assure yourself, pure invention.

I am sensible of the favour you did me, in preventing the publishing of such a false report, and am most thankful to Mr. secretary *St. John* for stopping it. I have not the honour to be known to him, other-



wise I would give him the trouble of a particular acknowledgement. As to Mr. *Harley*, I have had the happiness to have some knowledge of him, and received some obligations from him, particularly on the account of my act of parliament, that I obtained for the restitution of *Seatown* to the see of *Dublin*. I always had a great honour for him, and expected great good from his known abilities, and zeal for the common interest; and, as I believe, he was the principal instrument of settling things on the present foot; so I believe every one, that wisheth well to these kingdoms, is satisfied, that there is not any man, whose death would be a greater loss to the public than his. The management of this parliament has, if not reconciled his worst enemies to him, at least silenced them; and 'tis generally believed, that his misfortune has much retarded public affairs.

I partly can guess who writ the letter you mention: it must be one of two or three, whose business it is to invent a lye, and throw dirt, ever since I was obliged by my duty to call them to account for their negligence and ill practices: they have published and dispersed several libellous



prints against me, in one of which I marked forty-three downright falsehoods in matters of fact. In another, it is true, there was only one such; the whole and every part of it, from beginning to end, being pure invention and falsehood. But, to my comfort, they are despised by all good men; and I like myself nothing less for being the object of their hate. You will excuse this long letter, and I hope I may, by next, apprise you with something of consequence. In the mean time, I heartily recommend you, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

I held my visitation on the 9th instant, where you were excused, as absent on the public business of the church \*.

## LETTER XLV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR, Dublin, May 15, 1711.

I HAD the favour of yours of the 10th instant, by the last pacquets, and cannot return you sufficient acknowledgement for your kind and prudent management of that af-

\* Dr. Swift had then two livings in Ireland, *Laracor* and *Rathbeggin*, both in the diocese of *Meath*.



fair so much to my advantage. I confess that I did not much fear that such a vile report would do me any great injury with Mr. *Harley* ; for I was persuaded he is too wise to believe such an incredible story. But the publishing it to the world might have influenced some to my disadvantage ; and no man can be well pleased to be the subject of a libel, though it often happens to be the fate of honest men.

I doubt not but you will hear of an unlucky contest in the city of *Dublin* about their mayor. You may remember (I think, whilst you were here, that is, in 1709) alderman *Constantine*, by a cabal, for so I must call it, lost his election ; and a junior alderman, one *Forrest*, was elected mayor for the ensuing year. *Constantine* petitioned the council-board not to approve the election ; for you must know, by the new rules, settled in pursuance of an act of parliament, for the better regulation of corporations, their chief officers must be approved of by the governor and council after they are elected, before they can enter into any of their respective offices ; and, if not approved of in ten days, the corporation that chose them must go to a new



election. Now alderman *Constantine*, upon the corporation's return of *Forrest*, complained of it as wrong, and desired to be heard by council; but my lord *Wharton*, then lord lieutenant, would not admit it. This past on to the year 1710, and then the present mayor was chosen, alderman *Eccles*, another junior alderman; and this year one alderman *Barlow*, a taylor, another junior, *Constantine*, finding the government altered, supposed he should have more favour, and petitions again of the wrong done him. The city replied, and we had two long hearings. The matter depended on an old bye-law, made about the 12th of queen *Elizabeth*; by which the aldermen, according to their ancientry, are required to keep their mayoralty, notwithstanding any licences or orders to the contrary. Several dispensations and instances of contrary practices were produced; but with a salvo, that the law of succession should stand good; and some aldermen, as appeared, had been disfranchised for not submitting to it, and holding their mayoralty. On the contrary, it was urged, that this rule was made in a time when the mayoralty was looked upon as a great burthen,

then,



then, and the senior aldermen got licences from serving it, and by faction and interest got it put on the junior and poorer; and most of the aldermen were then papists, and being obliged, on accepting the office, to take the oath of supremacy, and come to church, they declined it; but the case was now altered, and most were ambitious of it; and a rule or bye-law, that imposed it as a duty and burthen, must be understood to oblige them to take it, but could not oblige the electors to put it on them; that it was often dispensed with, and, as alledged, altogether abrogated by the new rules, that took the election out of the city, where the charter places it, and gave it to the aldermen only; that since those rules, which were made in 1672, the elections have been in another manner, and in about 36 mayors, eight or nine were junior aldermen. On the whole, the matter seemed to me to hang on a most slender point; and being archbishop of *Dublin*, I thought I was obliged to be for the city, but the majority was for the bye-law, and disapproved alderman *Barlow*, who was returned for mayor. I did foresee that this would beget ill blood, and did not think



think it for my lord duke of *Ormond's* interest to clash with the city ; and I went to several of his grace's friends, whom I must trust before the debate in council, and desired them to consider the matter, and laid the inconveniency I apprehended before them, and desired them to take notice, that I had warned them ; but they told me, that they did not foresee any hurt it would be to his grace. And I pray God it may not ; though I am afraid it may give him some trouble.

The citizens have taken it heinously ; and, as I hear, met to-day, and in common-council repealed the bye-law, and have chosen alderman *Barlow* again. I think them wrong in both, and a declaration of enmity against the council and government, which feud is easier begun than laid. It is certain the council must disapprove their choice, it being against the new rules, as well as good manners : and what other steps will be made to correct them, I cannot say ; whereas if they had appointed a committee to view and report what old obsolete bye-laws were become inconvenient, and repealed this among the rest, it would not have given offence ; and if they  
had



had chosen another instead of *Barlow*, I believe he would have been approved, and there had been an end of the contest.

You must know this is made a party affair, as *Constantine* sets up for a high-churchman, which I never heard he did before : but this is an inconveniency in parties, that whoever has a private quarrel, and finds himself too weak, he immediately becomes a zealous partizan, and makes his private a public quarrel.

Perhaps it may not be ungrateful, nor perhaps altogether useless to you, to know the truth of this matter ; for I imagine it will be talked of.

I believe the generality of the citizens and gentlemen of *Ireland* are looked on as friends to the whiggish interest. But it is only so far as to keep out the pretender, whom they mortally fear with good reason ; and so many villainous papers have been spread here, and so much pains taken to persuade them, that the tories design to bring him in, that it is no wonder they are afraid of them ; but God be thanked this ministry and parliament has pretty well allayed that fear by their steady and prudent manage-



management. And if his grace the duke of *Ormond* prosecutes the same measures the ministry doth in *Britain* (as I believe he will) I persuade myself, that the generality here will be as zealous for this as any ministry we ever had.

The death of the earl of *Rochester* is a great blow to all good men, and even his enemies cannot but do justice to his character. What influence it will have on public affairs, God only knows. I pray let me have your thoughts on it, for I have some fears, that I do not find affect other people: I was of opinion that he contributed much to keep things steady; and I wish his friends may not want his influence. I conclude with my prayers for you,

WILL. DUBLIN.

## LETTER XLVI.

Lord PETERBOROUGH to Dr.  
SWIFT.

S I R,

Hanover, June 21, 1711.

YOU were returning me to ages past for some expressions in my letter. I find matter in yours to send you as far back as the  
golden



golden age. How came you to frame a system (in the times we live in) to govern the world by love.

I was much more surprized at such a notion in your first, than to find your opinion altered in your last letter. My hopes were founded more reasonably upon the contrary principle. I wish we could keep ourselves steady by any; but I confess it was the hatred and contempt so justly conceived against our late governors, that gave me some little expectations we might unite at least, in order to prevent a relapse.

The consequences of places not given were apparent; the whole party were then dissatisfied; and when given, those are only pleased who have them. This is what the honest management of past administrations has brought us to: but I should not yet despair, if your loving principle could but have its force amongst three or four of your acquaintance. Never persons had more reason to agree; nor was it ever in the power of a few men to bring greater events to bear, or prevent greater inconveniencies; for such are inevitable, without the nicest management; and I believe no person



person was ever better prepared to make this out than myself.

I wish, before I left *England*, that I had met, either in your letters or discourse, any thing like what you hint in your last; I should have found great ease, and you some satisfaction; for had you passed these six months with me abroad, I could have made you sensible, that it were easy to have brought the character and influence of an *English* peer equal to that of a senator in old *Rome*. Methinks I could have brought it to that pass, to have seen a levee of suppliant kings and princes expecting their destinies from us, and submitting to our decrees; but if we come in politics to your necessity of leaving the town for want of money to live in it, Lord, how the case will alter!

You threaten me with law; and tell me I might be compelled to make my words good. Remember your own insinuations: what if I should leave *England* in a week's time, and summon you in quality of chaplain and secretary, to be a witness to transactions perhaps of the greatest importance, so great, that I should think you might deserve the bishopric of *Winchester* at your  
return



return. Let me know, in a letter directed to *Parson's-Green*, the moment you receive this, whether you are ready and willing; but you must learn to live a month, now and then, without sleep. As to all other things, we should meet with no mortifications abroad, if we could escape them from home.

But, without raillery, if ever I can propose to myself to be of any great use, I foresee this will be the case. This is so much my opinion, that I conclude, if it falls out otherwise, I shall never concern myself in any public business in *England*; that I shall either leave it for a better climate, or marry in a rage, and become the hero of the *October* club. Yours,

PETERBOROW.

## LETTER XLVI.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR, Dublin, July 25, 1711.

YOU must not wonder, that I have been so ill a correspondent of late, being, as I find, in debt to you for yours of *June* the 8th, and *July* the 12th. This did not proceed



ceed from any negligence, but from the circumstances of things here, that were such, that I could not return you any satisfactory answer.

We have now got over the preliminaries of our parliaments and convocation ; that is to say, our addresses, &c. and as to the parliament, so far as appears to me, there will be an intire compliance with her majesty's occasions, and my lord duke of *Ormond's* desires ; and that funds will be given for two years from *Christmas* next ; by which we shall have the following summer free from parliamentary attendance, which proves a great obstruction both to church and country business. As to the convocation, we have no licence as yet to act. I have heard some whispers, as if a letter of licence had come over, and was sent back again to be mended, especially as to direction about a president. I may inform you, that that matter is in her majesty's choice : we have on record four licences ; the first directed to the archbishop of *Dublin* in 1614 ; the other three, that are in 1634, 1662, and 1665, directed to the then lords primates. I have not at present the exact dates ; but I have seen the writs,  
and



and find the convocations sat in these years.

His grace the duke of *Ormond*, in his speech to the parliament (which I doubt not but you have seen) mentioned the remittal of the twentieth parts, and the grant of the first-fruits, for buying impropriations; but did not assume to himself any merit in the procuring of them; nor, that I can find by any intimation, so much as insinuated, that the grant was on his motion; notwithstanding, both in the house of lords and convocation, some laboured to ascribe the whole to his grace; and had it not been for the account I had from you, his grace must, next to her majesty, have had the entire thanks. You'll observe, from the lords address and convocation, that his grace is brought in for a share in both. But if the case should be otherwise, yet his grace is no way to be blamed. The current runs that way; and perhaps neither you nor I have bettered our interest here at present, by endeavouring to stop it.

The conclusion was, that all the archbishops and bishops agreed to return thanks to my lord treasurer of *Great Britain*, by a



letter, which all in town have signed, being convinced, that, next to her majesty's native bounty, and zeal for the church, this favour is due to his lordship's mediation.

But they have employed no agent to solicit the passing the act through the offices, believing his lordship will take care of that of his own mere motion, as he did of the grant. This is meant as an instance of their great confidence of his lordship's concern for them, which makes it needless that any should intermeddle in what he has undertaken.

If his lordship thinks fit to return any answer to the bishops, I wish he would take some occasion to mention you in it; for that would justify you, and convince the bishops, some of whom, perhaps, suspect the truth of what you said of the first-fruits and twentieth parts being granted before his grace the duke of *Ormond* was declared lord lieutenant of *Ireland*.

I can't at present write of several matters, that perhaps I may have opportunity to communicate to you. I have sent with this the lords and the convocation's address to my lord duke.



If it may be proper, I would have my most humble respects to be laid before my lord treasurer. You may be sure I am his most humble servant, and shall never forget the advantages he has been the author of to the church and state; and yet I believe, if it please God to prolong his life, greater things may be expected from him; my prayers shall not be wanting.

As for yourself, I will say more some other time: and for the present shall only assure you, that I am, Sir, your affectionate humble servant, and brother,

WILL. DUBLIN.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

Liffenhall, July 28, 1711.

SINCE my lord duke of *Ormond's* arrival, I have been so continually hurried with company, that I retired here for two or three days. The preliminaries of our parliament are now over; that is to say, addresses, &c. and I find the usual funds will be granted; I think unanimously for two from *Christmas* next, which is all the



duke of *Ormond* desires. I do not see much more will be done. You will observe several reflections are in the addressees on the late management here, in which the earl of *Anglesey* and I differed. If we could impeach, as you can in *Great Britain*, and bring the malefactors to account, I should be for it with all my endeavour; but to shew our ill-will, when we can do no more, seems to be no good policy in a dependant people, and that can have no other effect, than to provoke revenge, without the prospect of redress; of which we have two fatal instances. I reckon, that every chief governor, who is sent here, comes with a design to serve first those who sent him; and that our good only must be so far considered, as it is subservient to the main design. The only difference between governors, as to us, is to have a good-natured man, that has some interest in our prosperity, and will not oppress us unnecessarily; and such is his grace. But I doubt, whether even that will not be an objection against him on your side of the water: for I have found, that those governors, that gained most on the liberties of the kingdom, are reckoned the best; and there-



therefore it concerns us to be on our guard against all governors, and to provoke as little as we can. For he, that cannot revenge himself, acts the wise part, when he dissembles, and passes over injuries.

In my opinion, the best that has happened to us, is, that the parliament grants the funds for two years ; for by these means we shall have one summer to ourselves to do our church and country business. I have not been able to visit my diocese *ecclesiasticam*, as I used to do, the last three years, for want of such a recess. I hope the parliament of *Great Britain* will not resume the yarn bill whilst they continue the same. The lords have not sat above four or five days, and are adjourned till *Monday* next ; so we have no heads of bills brought into our house as yet : but if any be relating to the church, I will do my endeavour to give you satisfaction.

Our letter is come over for the remittal of the twentieth parts, and granting the first-fruits for buying impropriations, and purchasing glebes, which will be a great ease to the clergy, and a benefit to the church. We want glebes more than the impropriations ; and I am for buying them



first, where wanting ; for without them, residence is impossible : and, besides, I look upon it, as a security to tythes, that the laity have a share in them ; and therefore I am not for purchasing them, but where they are absolutely necessary.

We shall, I believe, have some considerations of methods to convert the natives ; but I do not find, that it is desired by all, that they should be converted. There is a party amongst us, that have little sense of religion, and heartily hate the church : these would have the natives made Protestants ; but such as themselves are deadly afraid they should come into the church, because, say they, this would strengthen the church too much. Others would have them come in, but can't approve of the methods proposed, which are to preach to them in their own language, and have the service in *Irish*, as our own canons require. So that between them, I am afraid that little will be done. I am, Sir, yours, &c,

L E T.



## L E T T E R XLIX.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

R E V. S I R,

Swords, Sept. 1, 1711.

I HAVE before me yours of the 15th and 21st, for which I return you my hearty thanks. I perceive you have the votes of our commons here, and I suppose the address of the lords, that gave occasion to them. I must let you know, that I was very positive against the clause that provoked them, and kept the house in debate about it at least an hour, and spoke so often, that I was ashamed of myself; yet there were but three negatives to it. I used several arguments against the lords concurring with their committee, and foretold all that has happened upon it. Upon which I was much out of favour with the house for some time; and industry has been used, as I was informed, to persuade my lord duke, that what I did was in opposition to his interest: but when I had the opportunity to discourse his grace last, he was of another opinion. And, in truth, my regard to his grace's interest was the



principal reason of opposing a clause, that I foresaw might embarrass his business here.

There happened another affair relating to one *Langton*, of whom I formerly gave you some account. The commons found him on the establishment for a small pension ; and having an ill notion of him and his informations, they took this occasion to examine his merits. In order to which, they sent up a message to the lords, to desire leave for judge *Coste*, who had taken his examinations, and those of his witnesses, to come down, and inform the committee : and this seemed the more necessary, because the examinations taken by the council were burned : but the lords refused to let the judge go down, as desired, and passed a vote to take the examination of the matter into their hands. This, I foresaw, might prove another bone of contention, and did oppose it, but with the same success as the former. *Langton* pleaded privilege, as chaplain to the bishop of *Ossory*, and refused to appear before the commons ; on which they passed the angry resolves you will find in their votes. The examination of this matter has employed much of the lords time to very little purpose. My opposing



posing this was made an objection against me by some, that with now my advice had been taken.

The business of the city of *Dublin*, of which I gave you an account formerly, embroils us very much. We have at the council rejected four mayors and eight sheriffs, all regularly elected by the city, some of them the best citizens in the town, and much in the interest of the government. We begin to be sick of it, and I am afraid, that it may beget ill blood, and come into parliament here. We have rejected the elected magistrates in four other corporations, which adds to the noise. I own there were good reasons for rejecting some of them; but I can't say the same for *Dublin*. I wish this may not prove uneasy to us.

There was a motion made at the sessions for the county of *Dublin* at *Kilmainham*, for an address of thanks to her majesty for sending his grace the duke of *Ormond* to be our chief governor. Nine of the justices, that is, all that were then present, agreed to it, and an address was ordered to be drawn, which was brought next morning into court, and then there were above a score



score, that seemed to have come on purpose, and promised, that it should be rejected by a majority ; for this reason only, that it would entail a necessity on them to address in favour of every new lord lieutenant, or disoblige him. For which reason it was rejected also in my lord *Wharton's* time. This no ways concerns his grace himself ; but in my opinion, ought to lessen the esteem of some persons management, that attempt things, which would be better let alone, where they cannot be carried without opposition.

The house of commons seem to have received ill impressions of some. They reckon my lord duke's advisers, as if they were secretly his enemies, and designed to betray him. They generally seemed persuaded, that his grace is a sincere honest man, and most in the interest of the kingdom of any chief governor they can ever expect ; and that, therefore, they ought to support him to the utmost of their power, and declare, that the quarrels his enemies raise, shall not hinder them from doing whatever he shall reasonably desire from them, or her majesty's service require ; and as an instance of their sincerity in this, they



they have granted funds for two years from *Christmas* last; whereas at first they intended only two years from the 24th of *June* last.

I have been preaching a doctrine that seems strange to some: 'tis, that her majesty, and the ministry, will be inclined to employ such as may be a help and support to their interest, and not a clog. I mean, that these subalterns should, by their prudence and dexterity, be able to remove any misunderstandings, that may be between the government and the people, and help to beget in them a good notion of the ministry; and, by all means, avoid such things, as may embarrass or beget jealousies; so that the burthen or odium may not fall on the ministry, where any harsh things happen to be done: that it seems to me to be the duty of those in posts, to avoid unnecessary disputes, and not to expect, that the ministry will interpose to extricate them, when they, without necessity, have involved themselves. But some are of a different opinion, and seem to think, that they have no more to do, when they meet with difficulties, perhaps of their own creating, than to call in the ministry, and desire them to decide the matter

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ter by power : a method, that I do not approve, nor has it succeeded well with former governors here : witness lord *Sydney*, and lord *Wharton*, in the case of the convocation.

There really needs but one thing to quiet the people of *Ireland*, and it is to convince them, that there is no eye to the pretender. Great industry has been, and still is, used to bugbear them with that fear. I believe it is over with you ; but it will require time and prudent methods to quiet the people here, that have been possessed for twenty-two years with a continual apprehension, that he is at the door, and that a certain kind of people designed to bring him in. The circumstances of this kingdom, from what they saw and felt under king *James*, make the dread of him much greater than it can be with you.

As to our convocation, a letter came from her majesty to give us licence to act ; but it no ways pleased some people, and so it was sent back to be modelled to their mind, but returned again without alteration. It came not to us till the day the parliament adjourned. I was at that time obliged to attend the council, there being a hearing of  
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the quakers against a bill for recovering tythes. In my absence they adjourned till the meeting of the parliament, without so much as voting thanks, or appointing a committee. The things, that displeased some in the licence were, first, that my lord primate was not the sole president, so as to appoint whom he pleased to act in his absence. The second was, the consideration of proper methods to convert the natives, against which some have set themselves with all their might. The third is, what concerns pluralities, and residence, which some have not patience to hear of. The lower house seem to have the matter more at heart; for they have appointed committees during the recess, and are doing something.

I can't but admire, that you should be at a loss to find what is the matter with those, that would neither allow you, nor any one else, to get any thing for the service of the church, or the public. It is, with submission, the silliest query I ever found made by *Dr. Swift*. You know there are some, that would assume to themselves to be the only churchmen and managers, and can't endure that any thing should be  
done



done but by themselves, and in their own way; and had rather that all good things proposed should miscarry, than be thought to come from other hands than their own, whose business it is to lessen every body else, and obstruct whatever is attempted, tho' of the greatest advantage to church and state, if it be not from their own party. And yet, so far as I have hitherto observed, I do not remember any instance of their proposing, much less prosecuting with success, any thing for the public good. They seem to have a much better hand at obstructing others, and embarrassing affairs, than at proposing or prosecuting any good design.

These seem as uneasy that more alterations are not made here, as those you mention are with them. The reason is very plain, they would fain get into employments, which can't be without removes; but I have often observed, that none are more eager for posts, than such as are least fit for them. I do not see how a new parliament would much mend things here; for there is little choice of men: perhaps it might be for the worse, *rebus sic stantibus*; though I always thought the honest  
part,



part, is to allow the people to speak their sense on the change of affairs by new representatives. I do not find, that those that have embarrassed the present, designed a new one ; but they thought the commons so passive, that they might carry what they pleased, whatever their design might be. If they prosecute the present measures, I believe they will make new ones necessary, when there shall be occasion to have a new session.

I pray most heartily for her majesty, and her ministers ; and am inclined to believe, that it is one of the most difficult parts of their present circumstances, to find proper instruments to execute their good intentions, notwithstanding the great crowds that offer themselves ; particularly, my lord treasurer's welfare is at heart with all good men : I am sure, with none more than, reverend Sir, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

L E T-



## L E T T E R L.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

Swords, Sept. 1, 1711.

I GOT a little retirement here, and made use of it, to write you by the present packet. I promised to say something as to your own affairs; and the first thing is not to neglect yourself on this occasion, but to make use of the favour and interest you have at present, to procure you some preferment that may be called a settlement. Years come on, and after a certain age, if a man be not in a station that may be a step to a better, he seldom goes higher. It is with men as with beauties, if they pass the flower, they grow stale, and lie for ever neglected. I know you are not ambitious; but it is prudence, not ambition, to get into a station, that may make a man easy, and prevent contempt when he grows in years. You certainly may now have an opportunity to provide for yourself, and I entreat you not to neglect it.

The second thing that I would desire you to consider, is, that God has given you  
parts



parts and learning, and a happy turn of mind ; and that you are answerable for those talents to God : and therefore I advise you, and believe it to be your duty, to set yourself to some serious and useful subject in your profession, and to manage it so, that it may be of use to the world. I am persuaded, that if you will apply yourself this way, you are well able to do it ; and that your knowledge of the world, and reading, will enable you to furnish such a piece, with such uncommon remarks, as will render it both profitable and agreeable, above most things that pass the press. Say not, that most subjects in divinity are exhausted ; for if you will look into Dr. *Wilkins's* Heads of Matters, which you will find in his *Gift of Preaching*, you will be surprized to find so many necessary and useful heads, that no authors have meddled with. There are some common themes, that have employed multitudes of authors ; but the most curious and difficult are in a manner untouched, and a good genius will not fail to produce something new and surprizing on the most trite, much more on those that others have avoided, merely because they were above their parts.



Assure yourself, that your interest, as well as duty, requires this from you ; and you will find, that it will answer some objections against you, if you thus shew the world, that you have patience and comprehension of thought, to go through with such a subject of weight and learning.

You'll pardon me this freedom, which I assure you proceeds from a sincere kindness, and true value that I have for you. I will add no more, but my hearty prayers for you. I am, Dr. *Swift*, yours,

WILL. DUBLIN.

## LETTER LI.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

Dublin, Oct. 27, 1711.

I HAVE before me yours of the 1st instant, but have been so employed with attending parliament, convocation, and privy-council, that I could neither compose my thoughts to write, nor find time. Besides, our business is all in a hurry ; and I may say in fine, that things admit of no perfect account. On *Wednesday* the corn bill, which the commons seemed to value most, was thrown out ; because it reserved a power

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to the lord lieutenant and council here, to prohibit or permit the transportation of grain at any time. There was a design to fall on the privy-council upon this occasion; but gentlemen would not come into it; which shewed they had some wit in their anger. And I am still of opinion, that, with tolerable good management, this would have been as quiet a session as has been in *Ireland*: but the *Dublin* business, the address of the lords, *Langton's* affair \* and now *Higgins's* †, have exasperated the commons to such a height, that will, as

\* ‘ *Dominic Langton*, clerk, formerly a fryar, had accused *Lewis Meares*, Esq; and other Protestant gentlemen of the county of *West-Meath*, of entering into an association against the queen and her ministry: upon which the house of commons in *Ireland*, on the 6th of *August*, 1711, voted several strong resolutions against the said *Langton*, declaring his charge against Mr. *Meares*, &c. to be false, groundless, and malicious; and resolved, that an address should be presented to the lord lieutenant, the duke of *Ormond*, to desire, that her majesty would order the said *Langton* to be struck off the establishment of *Ireland*.’

† ‘ *Francis Higgins*, M. A. prebendary of *Christ-church*, in *Dublin*, and rector of *Balruddery*, in that county, mentioned in a former note, p. 84. He had been presented by the grand jury of the county of *Dublin*, on the 5th of *October*, 1711, as a sower of sedition, and groundless jealousies, amongst her majesty's Protestant subjects. And on the 10th of the same month, *Henry* lord *Santry* presented a petition to the lord lieutenant and privy-council of *Ireland*, desiring, that Mr. *Higgins* might be turned out of the commission of peace. But, after se-



you observe, make this parliament to be impracticable any longer. It is true, the lord's address might have been interpreted to aim at lord *Wharton*, and was partly so intended; but it was ill expressed to bear that sense; and, besides, what did it signify for us to shew our resentment, when it could only provoke a great man to revenge, and could not reach him?

As to the first-fruits, and twentieth parts, no body here dare say, that any body, beside the duke of *Ormond*, procured them, but his grace himself; who, for ought I can learn, never assumed, either publicly or privately, any such merit to himself: and yet, I confess, it is not amiss, that it should be thought he did those things. For he could not think of governing the kingdom, if it be not believed, that he has great interest at court; and if that did not appear by some favours of moment obtained for the kingdom, none would suppose it. He is truly a modest, generous, and honest man; and assure yourself, that whatever disturbance he has met with, proceeds from his

veral hearings of the case, before the lord lieutenant and council, he was, on the 19th of *November* following, cleared; though the archbishop of *Dublin* voted in the negative against him.

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sticking too close to his friends. It is a pity, such a fault should hurt a man. I send you, enclosed, the papers that relate to Mr. *Higgins*. Lord *Santry* was heard against him, before the lord lieutenant and council, *October* 27: he was allowed only to prove the articles in his petition, that are marked with P, and he seemed to prove them pretty fully; but Mr. *Higgins* not having yet made his defence, I can give no judgment. By the testimony of the lower house of convocation, in his favour, you will see how heartily they espouse him. And surely both pains and art have been used to screen him: with what effect you shall hear when the matter is concluded. I wish every good man may meet with as good and as fast friends as he hath done. I send you likewise the votes, that kept the commons in debate, from eleven in the morning till seven at night. The question was carried in the negative, by two accidents; the going out of one member, by chance, to speak to somebody at the putting the question; and the coming in of another, in his boots, at the very minute. If either had not happened, it had gone the other way. The personal affection to



the duke of *Ormond* divided the house. If they could have separated him from some others, the majority had been great. You may easily, from this, see what way the bent of the kingdom goes; and that garbling corporations no way pleases them.

We have several printed accounts of preliminaries of the peace; but I believe them all amusements; for, I imagine, none of the common scribblers know any thing of them at all. I pray God they may be such as may secure us from a new war; though, I believe, the death of the emperor makes a lasting peace much more difficult than before. That depends on a balance, and to that three things seem so necessary, that any two may stop the third; but now all is reduced to two. I reckon, as soon as the peace is settled, the dauphin will be taken out of the way, and then *France* and *Spain* will fall into one hand: a surmise I have had in mind ever since *Philip* got *Spain*; and I was of opinion, that if we could have been secured against this accident, there had been no need of a war at all.

As to the convocation, I told you formerly how we lost all the time of the recess, by a precipitate adjournment made by  
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five bishops, when the archbishop of *Tuam*, and as many of us as were of the privy-council, were absent, attending at the board, upon a hearing of the Quakers against the bill for recovery of tythes. Since the meeting of the parliament, after the recess, we have attended pretty closely, have drawn up and agreed to six or seven canons, and have drawn up a representation of the state of religion, as to infidelity, heresy, impiety, and popery. We have gone through likewise, and agreed to, a great part of this; but I doubt we shall not be able to finish it. We have also before us the consideration of residence, and the means of converting Papists. This last sent up from the lower house. But I reckon it not possible to finish these things this session. I need not tell you, that my lord primate's indisposition is a great clog to dispatch; but he is resolved none else shall have the chair. So we dispense with many things, that otherwise I believe we should not. We had only two church-bills this time; one for unions, which was thrown out in our house; and another for recovery of tythes, which I understand will be thrown out by the commons. Our



session draws near an end, and every body is tired of it.

WILL. DUBLIN.

L E T T E R LII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

Oct. 31, 1711.

**T**O-DAY we had another hearing at council, concerning Mr. *Higgins's* business. Some of his witnesses were examined. So far as we have yet heard, it doth not appear to me, that they have cleared him of tampering with witnesses, shifting recognizances, or compounding felonies; but, it is said, these things are common in the country; and, perhaps, that will save him. And I know not how far his other witnesses, that are yet to be examined, may clear him. The hearing lasted above three hours. I was unwilling to make this packet too large, so I have inclosed the other prints in another. I want some affidavits of gentlemen, in which they depose Mr. *Higgins's* case to contain many falsehoods. I am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

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## L E T T E R LIII.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

Dublin, Nov. 1, 1711.

**I** HAVE considered that part of your letter that relates to your own concerns. I find you, in earnest, very indifferent as to making your fortune; but you ought not to be so, for a weighty reason you insinuate yourself, that you cannot, without a settlement, be master of your time in such manner, as to apply yourself to do something that may be useful to the church. I know it is not in your power to do it when you please; but yet something may be done towards it. Get but a letter to the government, from my lord treasurer, for the first good preferment; and you will, at the same time, fill it with a good man, and perhaps prevent a bad one from getting into it. Sure there is no immodesty in getting such a recommendation. Consider that years grow upon you; and, after fifty, both body and mind decay. I have several things on the anvil, and near finished, that perhaps might be useful, if published: but  
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the continual avocation by business, the impositions on me by impertinent visits, and the uneasiness of writing, which grows more intolerable to me every day, I doubt, will prevent my going any farther. Therefore lose no time *Qui non est hodie, cras minus aptus erit.* I am sure, you are able to do good service ; and give me leave to be importunate with you to go about it. *Cæsar* wrote his Commentaries under the hurry and fatigues of a general ; and perhaps a man's spirit is never more awakened, nor his thoughts better, than in the intervals of a hurry of business. Read *Erasmus's* life, and you'll find it was almost a continual journey. You see how malicious some are towards you, in printing a parcel of trifles, falsely, as your works. This makes it necessary that you should shame those varlets, by something that may enlighten the world, which, I am sure, your genius will reach, if you set yourself to it. If I had the honour to have any correspondence with my lord treasurer, I would certainly complain of you to him, and get his lordship to join in this request, which, I persuade myself, he would readily do, if put in mind. I do not in the least fear  
that



that you will be angry with me for this, since you cannot suspect my sincerity and kindness in it; and though I shall be angry with you, if you neglect yourself and interest, yet it shall go no farther, than to be a trouble to myself, but no abatement of the real friendship of yours, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

LETTER LIV.

Archbishop KING to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR, Dublin, Nov. 10, 1711.

PERHAPS it will not be ungrateful to you, to know our session of parliament ended on *Friday* last. We threw out, in the house of lords, two bills; that against fines in the city of *Dublin*, and about quit-rents; and voted an address, in opposition to the commons address about revolution principles. We likewise burned Mr. *Stoughton's* sermon, preached at *Christ-church* on the 30th of *January*, some years ago. The house were pleased to vote me thanks for prosecuting him, which, you may remember, I did in a difficult time, notwithstanding the opposition I had from the government, and his protection by lord *Ikerin*, which



which he pleaded in court : and yet I followed him so close, that I forced him out of his living. After this, we burned Mr. *Boyse's* book of *A Scriptural Bishop* \* ; and *Some Observators* †. Our address was brought in yesterday ; in which sure we are even with the commons. I forgot to tell you, we agreed to another address against dissenting ministers, and their twelve hundred pounds ‡ *per annum*. The commons made an address to my lord lieutenant, in which they bring him in for revolu-

\* ‘ It was printed in 4to. at *Dublin*, under the title of, *The Office of a Christian Bishop described, and recommended from 1 Tim. ch. iii. ver. 1. An ordination-sermon. With an appendix to it, and a postscript, containing an apology for the publication of it.* The appendix and postscript were added to the second edition of the sermon. The author was an eminent dissenting minister, at *Dublin*.’

† ‘ Papers published under that title, by *John Tutchin*, Esq; who had been severely sentenced by lord chief justice *Jeffereys*, in king *James* the second's reign. He was, at last, attacked in the night, for some offence, which he had given by his writings, and died in consequence of the violence used towards him. Dr. *Swift*, in his *Examiner*, No. 15. for November 16, 1710, speaks of this writer, and of *Daniel de Foe*, author of *The Review of the State of the British Nation*, as two stupid illiterate scribblers, both of them fanatics by profession, p. 300.’

‡ ‘ This address was agreed upon November 9, 1711. The twelve hundred pounds *per annum* was originally a bounty to those ministers from king *Charles* the second, confirmed by king *William*, and continued by queen *Anne*.’

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tion principles. The memorial of the church of *England* \* was reprinted here, and dedicated to my lord lieutenant. This was brought into the house of commons, and, I doubt, would not have escaped, if the usher of the black rod had not called them up to the prorogation. *Langton's* business came likewise into the house of lords, and when the house was full of ladies, an offer was made to receive the report of the committee, which contained many sheets of paper. A great debate happened upon it; but at last it was waved, and ordered to be laid before the lord-lieutenant.

In short, we parted in very ill humour; and, I apprehend, that the minds of the generality are not easy. My lord duke of *Ormond*, so far as I could take it, made a very modest and healing speech; and his grace seemed, in it, to be altogether disinterested in parties. All these you have in

\* ‘Published at first in 1705, 4to, under this title, *The Memorial of the Church of England, humbly offered to the consideration of all true Lovers of our Church and Constitution.* This libel, upon its first publication, having been presented as such by the grand jury of *London* and *Middlesex*, on the 31st of *August*, 1705, was burnt by the common hangman.’

public ;



public; and, if you think it worth while, I will take care to send them as they are printed.

As to our convocation, those, who had loitered and done nothing before last week, pressed on the representation of the state of religion, as to infidelity, heresy, impiety, and popery: it will, in some time, be printed. I had many reasons, but insisted only on two; first, its imputing all vices to us, as if we were the worst of people in the world; not allowing any good amongst us. Secondly not assigning it a cause of the natives continuing Papists, that no care was ever taken to preach to them in their own language, or translating the service into *Irish*. You will find the matter in *Heylin's Reformation*, 2d *Eliz.* 1560, p. 128. I was forced to use art to procure this protest to be admitted, without which they would not have allowed me to offer reasons, as I had cause to believe.

Both the parliament and convocation have been so ordered, as to make us appear the worst people in the world, disloyal to her majesty, and enemies to the church; and, I suspect, with a design to make us appear unworthy to have any countenance  
or



or preferment in our native country. When the representation is printed, I will, if you think it worth your while, send you my protest. We agreed likewise in some canons of no great moment, and some forms of prayer, and forms of receiving Papists, and sectaries; which, I think, are too strait. I brought in a paper about residence; but here was no time to consider it, nor that which related to the means of converting Papists. I did not perceive any zeal that way. A great part of our representation relates to sectaries; and many things, in the whole, seem to me not defensible. I told you before, how we lost six weeks, during the adjournment of the parliament; and since it sat, we could only meet in the afternoon, and I was frequently in council; so that I was neither present when it was brought into the house, when it passed for the most part, or was sent down in parcels, in foul rased papers, that I could not well read, if I had an opportunity; and never heard it read through before it past.

I believe most are agreed, that if my advice had been taken, this would have been the peaceablest session ever was in *Ireland*; whereas it has been one of the most boisterous.



sterous. I believe it was his grace the duke of *Ormond's* interest to have it quiet; but then the managers conduct has shewed themselves to be necessary. I have wearied myself with this scroll, and perhaps you will be so likewise. I am, &c.

WILL. DUBLIN.

LETTER LV.

Mr. Secretary S T. JOHN to Dr.  
S W I F T.

Hampton-Court, Nov. 16, 1711.

**I** RETURN you the sheet \*, which is, I think, very correct. *Sunday* morning I hope to see you. I am sincerely your hearty friend, and obedient servant,

H. S T. JOHN.

I have a vile story to tell you of the moral philosopher *Steele*.

\* ‘ Probably of the conduct of the allies, which was published on the twenty-seventh of *November*, 1711.’



## L E T T E R LVI.

Dr. S W I F T to Dr. S T E R N E.

S I R,

London, Dec. 29, 1711.

T H E reason I have not troubled you this long time with my letters, was, because I would not disturb the quiet you live in, and which the greatest and wisest men here would envy, if they knew; and which it is one part of your happiness that they do not. I have often sent the archbishop \* political letters, of which I suppose you have had part. I have some weeks ago received a letter from his grace, which I design to acknowledge in a short time (as I desire you will please to tell him) when things here come to some issue; and so we expect they will do in a little time. You know what an unexpected thing fell out the first day of this session in the house of lords †, by the caprice, discontent, or

\* ‘ Archbishop of *Dublin*, Dr. *King*. ’

† ‘ The earl of *Nottingham* proposed, in the house of lords, a clause to be inserted in the address of thanks to the queen for her speech, to represent to her majesty, as the humble opinion and advice of the house, that no peace could be made safe or honourable to *Great Britain* or *Europe*, if *Spain* or the *West-Indies* were to be allowed to any branch of the house of *Bourbon*. Which motion was carried by a majority of sixty-one votes to fifty-five. ’



some worse motive of the earl of *Nottingham*.

In above twenty years, that I have known something of courts, I never observed so many odd, dark, unaccountable circumstances in any public affair. A majority against the court, carried by five or six depending lords, who owed the best part of their bread to pensions from the court, and who were told by the public enemy, that what they did would be pleasing to the queen, though it was openly levelled against the first minister's head; again, those, whose purse-strings and heart-strings were the same, all on a sudden scattering their money to bribe votes: a lord \*, who had been so far always a tory, as often to be thought in the pretender's interest, giving his vote for the ruin of all his old friends, carested by those whigs, who hated and abhorred him: the whigs all chiming in † with a bill against occasional conformity;

\* 'Earl of *Nottingham*.'

† 'One of the conditions, upon which the earl of *Nottingham* was said to have entered into strict engagements with the lords of the moderate party, was their concurrence with him in a bill to prevent *occasional conformity*, which he had formerly urged, and now designed to bring into the house of lords, though under another title, and with such clauses, as would, in some measure, enlarge the toleration of dissenters, and be a farther security to the Protestant succession, in the house of commons.



and the very dissenting ministers agreeing to it, for reasons that no body alive can tell \*; a resolution of breaking the treaty of peace, without any possible scheme for continuing the war : and all this owing to a doubtfulness, or inconstancy in one certain quarter, which, at this distance, I dare not describe. Neither do I find any one person, though deepest in affairs, who can tell what steps to take. On *January* the second, the house of lords is to meet, and, it is expected, they will go on in their votes and addresses against a peace.

On the other side, we are endeavouring to get a majority, and have called up mons. Accordingly, on *Saturday, December 15, 1711*, his lordship brought into the house of lords *a bill for preserving the Protestant religion, by better securing the church of England, as by law established; and for confirming the toleration granted to the Protestant dissenters, by an act, intituled, An Act for exempting their Majesties Protestant Subjects, dissenting from the church of England, from the penalties of certain Laws; and for the supplying the defects thereof; and for the farther securing the Protestant succession, by requiring the practisers of the law, in North Britain, to take the oaths, and subscribe the declaration therein mentioned.* His lordship was supported by the earls of *Scarborough* and *Wharton*, and several other lords; so that the bill was received, and read the first time without any opposition; and, on the 18th of *December*, it passed the house of lords, as it did that of the commons on the 20th of that month.

\* It is said the dissenters consented to be kept out, that the Papists might not be let in.



two earls sons to the house of peers ; and I thought six more would have been called, and, perhaps, they may before *Wednesday*. We expect the duke of *Somerset* and lord *Cholmondeley* will lose their places ; but it is not yet done, and we wish for one more change at court, which you must guess. To know upon what small circumstances, and by what degrees, this change has been brought about, would require a great deal more than I can or dare write.

There is not one, which I did not give warning of to those chiefly concerned, many months ago ; and so did some others, for they were visible enough. This must infallibly end either in an intire change of measures and ministry, or in a firm establishment of our side. Delay, and tenderness to an inveterate party, have been very instrumental to this ill state of affairs. They tell me you in *Ireland* are furious against a peace ; and it is a great jest to see people in *Ireland* furious for or against any thing.

I hope to see you in spring, when travelling weather comes on. But I have a mind to see the issue of this session. I reckon your hands are now out of mortar,  
and



and that your garden is finished: and I suppose you have now one or two fifty pounds ready for books \*, which I will lay out for you, if you will give me directions.

I have increased my own little library very considerably; I mean, as far as one fifty pounds, which is very considerable for me. I have just had a letter from the *St. Mary* ladies, &c †. I thought they were both dead; but I find they sometimes drink your claret still, and win your money. I am, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
You know *who*.

P. S. I had sealed my letter, but have broke it open, to tell you, and all that love the church and crown,  
L 3 that

\* Dr. *Sterne* made a large collection of books, and placed them in the upper part of the deanry-house (then built by him) which he fitted up for this purpose, in one great room, with a fire-place at each end. He enlarged this collection very much in the subsequent part of his life, and when he died bishop of *Clogher*, in June 1745, he bequeathed such books out of it, to the trustees of the public library in *Dublin*, founded by primate *Marsh*, as they wanted. The remainder he directed to be sold, and the money to be divided amongst the curates of his diocese: but as those gentlemen chose rather to have the books divided amongst them, their request was complied with by the bishop's executors; and all the books, being a great number, were divided into lots, as nearly equal as possible in value, and nailed up in boxes, that were numbered. Duplicates of these numbers were written on pieces of paper, and the curates drew for them.

† 'Mrs. *Johnson* and Mrs. *Dingley*.'



that all things are now well. The queen has turned out the duke of *Somerset*, and has created twelve new lords, of which three are peers eldest sons, the rest new created; so that a majority is past dispute. We are all in the greatest joy imaginable to find her majesty declare herself so seasonably.

# LETTER LVII.

Dr. SACHEVERELL \* to Dr.  
SWIFT.

REV. SIR, Southwark, Jan. 31, 1711-12.

SINCE you have been pleased to undertake the generous office of soliciting my good lord treasurer's favour in my behalf, I should be very ungrateful, if I did not return you my most hearty thanks for it, and my humblest acknowledgements to his lordship for the success it has met with.

I received last *Monday* a message by my pupil Mr. *Lloyd*, representative of *Shropshire*, from Mr. *Harley*, by his lordship's order, to enquire what my brother was qualified for. I told him, having failed in his trade, he had been out of business for some

\* This gentleman's trial, upon an impeachment, is well known. *Swift* says, it arose from a foolish passionate pique of the earl of *Godolphin*, whom he was supposed in a sermon to have reflected on, under the name of *Volpone*. See *Memoirs relating to the Change in the Queen's Ministry*, in the volumes just published by Mr. *Deane Swift*.

years,



years, during which time I had entirely maintained him and his family : that his education had not qualified him for any considerable or nice post; but that, if his lordship thought him an object of his favour, I entirely submitted him to his disposal, and should be very thankful to his goodness to ease me of part of that heavy burthen of my family, that required more than my poor circumstances could allow of.

I am informed also, that I am very much indebted to my great countryman, Mr. secretary *St. John*, for his generous recommendation of this matter to his lordship. I should be proud of an opportunity of expressing my gratitude to that eminent patriot, for whom no one, that wishes the welfare or honour of his church or country, can have so great a veneration.

But for yourself, good Doctor, who was the first spring to move it, I can never sufficiently acknowledge the obligation. I should be glad, if you will command me, in any time or place to do it, which will be a farther favour conferred on, reverend Sir, your most faithful servant,

H. SACHEVERELL.



*P. S.* I am told there is a place in the custom-house void, called the *searcher's*; which, if proper to ask, I would not presume; but rather leave it to his lordship's disposal.

## LETTER LVIII.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. JOHNSON\*.

Feb. 9, 1711.

**I** DINED to-day with Sir *Michael Dudley*, who is newly turned out of the commission of the customs. He affects a good heart, and talks in the extremity of whiggery, which was always his principle, tho' he was gentle a little, while he kept in

\* Mrs. *Johnson* was a lady, with whom *Swift* became acquainted, while he lived with Sir *William Temple*. She was the daughter of his steward; and when he died, he left her a thousand pounds, in consideration of her father's faithful services. She was about 18 when she went to *Ireland*; and after a most intimate friendship of more than 16 years, she was, in 1716, married to the dean, by Dr. *Ash*, then bishop of *Clogher*, to whom he had been a pupil in *Trinity College, Dublin*, though it is not known that they ever cohabited. This, and the following letters, are part of the journal, which, in the life of *Swift*, prefixed to *Bathurst's* edition, he is said to have written, and sent to this lady every fortnight. The letters are addressed, sometimes to Mrs. *Johnson*, and sometimes to Mrs. *Dingley*; and seem to be considered as written not to one, but both; for they are frequently addressed jointly; "are you housewives? are you readers?" See his letter to Mrs. *Dingley*, dated *March 22, 1711-12*.



employment. We can get no pacquets from *Holland*. I have not been with any of the ministry these two or three days. I keep out of their way on purpose, for a certain reason, for some time, tho' I must dine with the secretary \* to-morrow. The choosing of the company being left to me, I have engaged lord *Anglesey* and lord *Carteret*, and have promised to get three more; but I have a mind, that none else should be admitted. However, if I like any body at court to-morrow, I may perhaps invite them. I have got another cold, but not very bad.

10th, I saw prince *Eugene* at court to-day very plain. He is plaguy yellow, and literally ugly besides. The court was very full, and people had their birth-day cloaths. No pacquets from *Holland* yet. Here are a parcel of drunken whiggish lords, like your lord *Santry*, who come into chocolate-houses, and rail aloud at the tories, and have challenges sent them, and the next morning come and beg pardon. General *Ross* was like to swinge the marquis of — for this trick, the other day; and

\* *St. John.*



we have nothing else now to talk of till the parliament has had another bout with *the state of the war*, as they intend in a few days. They have ordered the barrier treaty to be laid before them; and it was talked some time ago, as if there was a design to impeach lord *Townsend*, who made it.

11th, I dined with lord *Anglesey* to-day, who had seven *Irishmen* to be my companions, of which two only were coxcombs. One I did not know, and the other was young *Bligh*, who is a puppy of figure here, with a fine chariot. He asked me, one day at court, when I had just been talking with some lords, who stood near me, Doctor, when shall we see you in the county of *Meath*? I whispered him to take care what he said, for the people would think *he was some Barbarian*. He never would speak to me since, till we met to-day. I went to lady *Masham's* to-night, and sat with lord treasurer and the secretary there till past two o'clock; and when I came home, found some letters from *Ireland*, which I read, but can say nothing of them till to-morrow: it is too late.

12th, One letter was from the bishop of *Clogher* last night, and the other from  
*Walls,*



*Walls*, about Mrs. *South*'s salary, and his own pension of eighteen pounds for his tythes of the *Park*. I will do nothing in either. The first I cannot serve in, and the other is a trifle ; only you may tell him I had his letter, and will speak to *Ned Southwell* about what he designs me. You say nothing of your dean's receiving my letter.

I find, *Clements*, whom I recommended to lord *Anglesey* last year, at *Walls*'s desire, or rather the bishop of *Clogher*'s, is mightily in lord *Anglesey*'s favour. You may tell the bishop and *Walls* so. I said to lord *Anglesey*, that I was glad I had the good luck to recommend him, &c.

I dined in the city with my printer, to consult with him about some papers lord treasurer gave me last night, as he always does, too late. However, I will do something with them. My third cold is a little better, I never had any thing like it before, three colds successively. Three messengers come from *Holland* to-day, and they brought over the six pacquets that were due. I know not the particulars yet ; for when I was with the secretary at noon, they were just opening. But one thing I find, the



*Dutch* are playing us tricks, and tampering with the *French*; they are dogs; I shall know more.

13th, I dined to-day privately with my friend *Lewis* \*, at his lodgings, to consult about some observations on the barrier treaty. Our news from *Holland* is not good. The *French* raise difficulties, and make such offers to the allies, as cannot be accepted; and the *Dutch* are uneasy, that we are like to get any thing for ourselves; and the whigs are glad at all this. I came home early, and have been very busy three or four hours. I had a letter from Dr. *Pratt* to-day by a private hand, recommending the bearer to me, for something that I shall not trouble myself about. *Wesley* writ to recommend the same fellow to me. His expression is, that hearing I am acquainted with my lord treasurer, he desires I would do so and so. A matter of nothing. What puppies are mankind! I hope I shall be wiser when I have once done with courts. I think you have not troubled me much with your recommendations. I would do you all the service I could.

\* *Erasmus Lewis*, secretary to lord *Oxford*.



14th, Our society dined to-day at Mr. secretary's house. I went there at four; but hearing the house of commons would sit late upon the barrier treaty, I went for an hour to *Kensington*, to see lord *Masham's* children. My young nephew \*, his son of six months old, has got a swelling in his neck. I fear it is the evil. We did not go to dinner till eight at night, and I left them at ten. The commons have been very severe on the barrier treaty, as you will find by their votes. A whig member took out the *Conduct of the Allies* †, and read that passage about the succession with great resentment; but none seconded him. The church-party carried every vote by a great majority. The archbishop of *Dublin* is so railed at by all who come from *Ireland*, that I can defend him no longer. Lord *Anglesey* assured me, that the story of applying *Piso* out of *Tacitus* to lord treasurer being wounded is true ‡. I believe the

\* Lord *Masham* was probably one of the sixteen brothers; which accounts for *Swift's* calling his son nephew. See the note on a letter from lord *Harley*, dated July 17, 1714.

† A pamphlet written by the Dean. See his works.

‡ For an account of the treasurer's being wounded, see a letter from the archbishop of *Dublin*, dated March 17, 1710, and note.



duke of *Beaufort* will be admitted to our society \* next meeting. To-day I published the *Fable of Midas*, a poem, printed in a loose half sheet. I know not how it will take ; but it passed wonderfully at our society to-night. Mr. secretary read it before me the other night, to lord treasurer, at lord *Masham's*, where they equally approved of it. Tell me how it passes with you ? I think this paper is larger than ordinary ; for here is a six days journal, and no nearer the bottom. I fear these journals are very dull.

15th, Mr. *Lewis* and I dined by invitation with a *Scotch* acquaintance, after I had been very busy in my chamber, till two in the afternoon. My third cold is now very troublesome on my breast, especially in the morning. This is a great revolution in my health ; colds never used to return so soon with me, or last so long. It is very surprising the news this day : the dauphin and dauphiness, both dying within six days. They say the old king is almost heart-broke : he has had prodigious mortifications in his family. The dauphin has left two little sons, of four and two years old ;

\* The society of sixteen, called Brothers.



the eldest is sick. There is a foolish story got about town, that lord *Strafford*, one of our plenipotentiaries, is in the interests of *France*: And it has been a good while said, that lord privy seal \* and he do not agree very well; they are both long practised in business, but neither of them of much parts. *Strafford* hath some life and spirit; but is infinitely proud, and wholly illiterate.

16th, I dined to-day in the city with my printer, to finish something I am doing about the barrier treaty; but it is not quite done †. I went this evening to lord *Masham's*, where lord treasurer sat with us till past twelve. The lords have voted an address to the queen, to tell her, they are not satisfied with the king of *France's* offers. The whigs brought it in of a sudden; and the court could not prevent it, and therefore did not oppose it. The house of lords is too strong in whigs, notwithstanding the new creations: for they are very diligent, and the tories as lazy: The side that is down hath always most indus-

\* Dr. *John Robinson*, bishop of *Bristol*. He was sworn lord privy seal, Sept. 3, 1711.

† It was published under the title of, "Remarks on the Barrier Treaty." See *Bathurst's* edition, octavo, vol. ix.



try. The whigs intended to have made a vote, that would reflect on lord treasurer ; but their project was not ripe.

17th, The court was mighty full to-day, and has been so these many *Sundays* ; but the queen was not at chapel. She has got a little fit of the gout in her foot. The good of going to court is, that one sees all one's acquaintance, whom otherwise I should hardly meet twice a year. Prince *Eugene* dines with the secretary to-day, with about seven or eight general officers, or foreign ministers. They will be all drunk, I am sure. I never was in company with this prince. I have proposed to some lords, that we should have a sober meal with him ; but I cannot compass it. It is come over in the *Dutch* news prints, that I was arrested on an action of 20,000*l.* by the duke of *Marlborough*. I did not like my court invitations to-day ; so Sir *Andrew Fountain* and I went and dined with Mrs. *Vanhomrigh* \*. I came home at six, and have been very busy till this minute, and it is past twelve. We reckon the dau-

\* The mother of *Vanessa*. See an account of her in *Swift's* life, and the verses called *Cadenus* and *Vanessa*. See also the note to the Dean's letter to Miss *Vanhomrigh*, dated July 8, 1713.



phin's death will set forward the peace a good deal.

18th, *Lewis* had *Guiscard's* picture ; he bought it, and offered it to lord treasurer, who promised to send for it, but never did ; so I made *Lewis* give it me, and I have it in my room ; and now lord treasurer says, he will take it from me. Is that fair ? He designs to have it at length in the cloaths he wore when he did the action, and a penknife in his hand. *Kneller* is to copy it from this that I have. I intended to dine with lord treasurer to-day, but he has put me off till to-morrow ; so I dined with lord *Dupplin*. You know lord *Dupplin* very well ; he is a brother of the society \*. Well, but I have received a letter from the bishop of *Clogher*, to solicit an affair for him with lord treasurer, and with the parliament, which I will do as soon as fly. I am not near so keen about other people's affairs as you used to reproach me. It was a judgment on me. I doubt you have been in pain about the report of my being arrested. The pamphleteers have let me alone this month, which is a great wonder ; only the third part of the answer

\* The society of sixteen.



to the *conduct*, which is lately come out. Did I tell you of it before? The house of commons goes on in mauling the late ministry and their proceedings.

19th, I dined with lord treasurer to-day, and sat with him till ten in spite of my teeth, though my printer waited for me to correct a sheet. I told him of four lines I writ extempore with my pencil, on a bit of paper in his house, while he lay wounded. Some of the servants, I suppose, made waste paper of them, and he never heard of them. They were inscribed to Mr. *Harley's* physician thus :

On *Britain* Europe's safety lies ;

*Britain* is lost, if *Harley* dies :

*Harley* depends upon your skill :

Think what you save, or what you kill.

I proposed that some company should dine with him on the eighth of *March*, which was the day he was wounded ; but he says he designs, that the lords of the cabinet, who then sat with him, should dine that day with him : however, he has invited me to dinner. I am not yet rid of my cold ; it plagues me in the morning chiefly.

20th,



20th, After waiting to catch the secretary coming out from Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, for two hours in vain, about some business, I went into the city to my printer, to correct some sheets of the barrier treaty, and remarks, which must be finished to-morrow. I have been hourly busy for some days past, with this and some other things; and I wanted some very necessary papers, which the secretary was to give me, and the pamphlet must not be published without them; but they are all busy too. Sir *Thomas Hanmer* is chairman of the committee, for drawing up a representation of the state of the nation to the queen, where all the wrong steps of the allies, and the late ministry about the war, will be mentioned. The secretary, I suppose, was helping him about it to-day; I believe it will be a pepperer.

21st, I have been six hours to-day morning writing nineteen pages of a letter to lord treasurer, about forming a society or academy, to correct and fix the *English* language. Is *English* a speech, or a language? It will not be above five or six more. I will send it him to-morrow, and



will print it, if he desires me \*. I dined, you know, with our society to-day; *Thursday* is our day. We had a new member admitted; it was the duke of *Beaufort*. We were thirteen met; brother *Ormond* was not there, but sent his excuse, that prince *Eugene* dined with him. I left them at seven, being engaged to go to Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, who desired I would see him at that hour. His business was, that I would †

hoen lbp ihainm itaoi dsroanws ubpl tohne  
sroe qporaensie p not las toi qobn, which I  
consented to do; but do not know whe-  
ther I shall succeed, because it is a little  
out of my way: however, I have taken my  
share.

22d, I finished the rest of my letter to lord treasurer to-day, and sent it to him about one o'clock; and then dined privately with my friend Mr. *Lewis*, to talk over some affairs of moment. I have gotten the 13th volume of *Rymer's* collection of the records of the *Tower*, for the university of *Dublin* ‡. I will write to the

\* It is printed in his works.

† Thus decyphered, "help him to draw up the representation."

‡ See a letter from lady *B. G.* to Dr. *Swift*, dated Nov. 7, 1734, and note.



provost to know how I shall send them to him; no, I won't, for I will bring them myself among my own books. I was with *Hanmer* this morning, and there was the secretary and chancellor of the exchequer\* very busy with him, laying their heads together about the representation. I went to lord *Masham's* to-night†, and lady *Masham* made me read her a pretty two-penny pamphlet, called the *St. Alban's* ghost‡. I thought I had writ it myself; so did they; but I did not. Lord treasurer came down to us from the queen, and we stayed till two o'clock. This is the best night-place I have. The usual company are lord and lady *Masham*, lord treasurer, Dr. *Arbutnot*, and I; sometimes the secretary||, and sometimes Mrs. *Hill*, of the bed-chamber, lady *Masham's* sister.

23d, I have no news to tell you this last day, nor do I know where I shall dine. I hear the secretary is a little out of or-

\* 'Robert Benson, Esq; afterwards created lord *Bingley*.'

† It should be last night, for this appears to have been written after two o'clock in the morning.

‡ The title is, *The story of St. Alban's* ghost, or the apparition of mother *Haggy*, collected from the best manuscripts.'

|| Mr. *St. John*.



der. Perhaps I may dine there, perhaps not. I sent *Hanmer* what he wanted from me. I know not how he will approve of it. I was to do more of the same sort. On *Tuesday* it will be four weeks since I had your last, N<sup>o</sup> 26. This day se'nnight I expect one, for that will be something more than a full month. Farewel.

## L E T T E R L I X.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. JOHNSON.

London, Feb. 23, 1711-12.

**A**FTER having disposed my last letter in the post-office, I am now to begin this, with telling you that I dined with the secretary to-day, who is much out of order with a cold, and feverish; yet he went to the cabinet council to-night at six, against my will. The secretary is much the greatest commoner in *England*, and turns the whole parliament, who can do nothing without him; and if he lives, and has his health, will, I believe, be one day at the head of affairs. I have told him sometimes, that if I were a dozen years younger, I would cultivate his favour, and trust my fortune with his. But what care you for all

all



all this? I am sorry when I came first acquainted with this ministry, that I did not send you their names and characters, and then you would have relished what I would have writ, especially if I had let you into the particulars of affairs: but enough of this.

24th, I went early this morning to the secretary, who is not yet well. Sir *Thomas Hanmer* and the chancellor of the exchequer came while I was there, and he would not let me stir; so I did not go to church, but was busy with them till noon, about the affair I told you of in my last. The other two went away, and I dined with the secretary, and found my head very much out of order, but no absolute fit; and I have not been well all this day. It has shook me a little. I sometimes sit up very late at lord *Masham's*, and have writ much for several days past; but I will amend both; for I have now very little business, and hope I shall have no more. I am resolved to be a great rider this summer in *Ireland*. I was to see Mr. *Wesley* this evening, who has been somewhat better for this month past, and talks of returning to the *Bath* in a few weeks. Our



peace goes on but slowly; the *Dutch* are playing tricks, and we do not push it as strongly as we ought. The fault of our court is delay, of which the queen has a great deal; and lord treasurer is not without his share. But pray let us know a little of your life and conversation. Do you play at ombre, or visit the dean, and goody *Wall's* and *Stoyte's*, and *Manly's* as usual? I must have a letter from you. Let me know what you do? Is my aunt alive yet? Oh, pray, now I think of it, be so kind to step to my aunt, and take notice of my great-grandfather's picture; you know he has a ring on his finger, with a seal of an anchor and dolphin about it; but I think there is besides, at the bottom of the picture, the same coat of arms quartered with another, which I suppose was my great-grandmother's. If this be so, it is a stronger argument than the seal. And pray see whether you think that coat of arms was drawn at the same time with the picture, or whether it be of a later hand; and ask my aunt what she knows about it. But perhaps there is no such coat of arms on the picture, and I only dreamed it. My reason is, because I would ask some herald here, whether



whether I should chuse that coat, or one in *Guillim's* large folio of heraldry, where my uncle *Godwin* is named with another coat of arms of three stags. This is sad stuff to write.

25th, I was this morning again with the secretary, and we were two hours busy; and then went together to the Park, *Hyde Park*, I mean; and he walked to cure his cold, and we were looking at two *Arabian* horses, sent some time ago to lord treasurer. The duke of *Marlborough's* coach overtook us, with his grace and lord *Godolphin* in it; but they did not see us, to our great satisfaction; for neither of us desired that either of those two lords should see us together. There was half a dozen ladies riding like cavaliers to take the air. My head is better to-day. I dined with the secretary; but we did no business after dinner, and at six I walked into the fields; then I went to visit *Percival* and his family, whom I had seen but once since they came to town. They are going to *Bath* next month. Countess *Doll of Meath* \* is such

\* 'Dorothy, daughter to *James Stopford*, Esq; and second wife of *Edward Brabazon*, earl of *Meath*, who died 22 February, 1708, without issue.'



an owl, that wherever I visit, people are asking me, whether I know such an *Irisb* lady, and her figure and her foppery? I came home early, and have been amusing myself with looking into one of the volumes of *Rymer's* records of the *Tower*, and am mighty easy to think I have no urgent business upon my hands. My third cold is not yet off; I sometimes cough, and am not right with it in the morning. Did I tell you, that I believe it is lady *Masham's* hot rooms that give it me? I never knew such a stove; and in my conscience, I believe both my lord and she, my lord treasurer, Mr. secretary, and myself, have all suffered by it. We have all had colds together, but I walk home on foot.

26th, I was again busy with the secretary. We read over some papers, and did a good deal of business. I dined with him, and we were to do more business after dinner; but after dinner is after dinner; an old saying and a true, much drinking, little thinking. We had company with us, and nothing could be done. I am to go there to-morrow. I have now nothing to do; and the parliament, by the queen's recommendation, is to take some method for pre-



preventing libels, &c. which will include pamphlets, I suppose. I do not know what method they will take, but it comes on in a day or two. To-day in the morning I visited upwards; first I saw the duke of *Ormond* below stairs, and gave him joy of his being declared general in *Flanders*; then I went up one pair of stairs, and sat with the duchess; then I went up another pair of stairs, and paid a visit to lady *Betty*; and desired her woman to go up to the garret, that I might pass half an hour with her; but she was young and handsome, and would not. The duke is our president this week, and I have bespoke a small dinner on purpose for good example.

27th, I was again with the secretary this morning; but we only read over some papers with Sir *Thomas Hanmer*: then I called at lord treasurer's; it was his levee-day, but I went up to his bed-chamber, and said what I had to say. I came down and peeped in at the chamber, where a hundred fools were waiting, and two streets were full of coaches. I dined in the city with my printer\*, and came back at six to

\* This printer was *John Barber*, afterwards alderman and lord mayor of *London*.



lord treasurer, who had invited me to dinner, but I refused him. I sat there an hour or two, and then went to lord *Masham's*. They were all abroad ; so truly I came home, and read whatever stuff was next me. I can sit and be idle now, which I have not been above a year past. However, I will stay out the session, to see if they have any further commands for me, and that I suppose will end in *April*. But I may go somewhat before, for I hope all will be ended by then, and we shall have either a certain peace, or a certain war. The ministry is continuing new funds for money by lotteries ; and we go on as if the war were to continue ; but I believe it will not.

28th, I have been packing up some books in a great box I have bought, and must buy another for cloaths and luggage. This is a beginning towards a removal. I have sent to *Holland* for a dozen shirts, and design to buy another new gown and hat. I have writ this night to the provost. Our society met to-day as usual, and we were fourteen, besides the earl of *Arran*, whom his brother the duke of *Ormond* brought among us against all order. We were mightily shocked ; but, after some  
whispers,



whispers, it ended in chusing lord *Arran* one of our society, which I opposed to his face; but it was carried by all the rest against me.

I 29th, This is leap-year, and this is leap-day; prince *George* was born on this day. People are mistaken; and some here think it is St. *David's* day; but they do not understand the virtue of leap-year. I have nothing to do now, boys, and have been reading all this day like gumdragon; and yet I was dictating some trifles this morning to a printer. I dined with a friend hard by, and the weather was so discouraging I could not walk. I came home early, and have read two hundred pages of *Arian*\*. *Alexander the Great* is just dead. I do not think he was poisoned: betwixt you and me, all those are but idle stories. It is certain, that neither *Ptolemy* nor *Aristobulus* thought so, and they were both with him when he died. It is a pity we have not their histories. The bill for limiting members of parliament to have but so many places past the house of commons, and will pass the house of lords, in spite of

\* The Greek historian, who writ the life of *Alexander the Great*.



the ministry ; which you know is a great lessening of the queen's power. Four of the new lords voted against the court in this point. It is certainly a good bill in the reign of an ill prince ; but I think things are not settled enough for it at present, and the court may want a majority at a pinch.

*March 1*, I went into the city, to enquire after poor *Stratford*, who has put himself a prisoner into the *Queen's Bench*, for which his friends blame him very much, because his creditors designed to be very easy with him. He grasped at too many things together, and that was his ruin. There is one circumstance relative to lieutenant-general *Meredith*, that is very melancholy : *Meredith* was turned out of all his employments last year, and had about 10000 *l.* left to live on. *Stratford*, upon friendship, desired he might have the management of it for *Meredith*, to put it into the funds and stocks for the best advantage ; and now he has lost it all. You have heard me often talk of *Stratford* ; we were class-fellows at school and university. I dined with some merchants, his friends, to-day, and they said they expected his breaking  
this



this good while. I gave him notice of a treaty of peace, while it was a secret, of which he might have made good use, but that helped to ruin him; for he gave money, reckoning there would be actually a peace for this time, and consequently stocks to rise high. *Ford* narrowly escaped losing 500 *l.* by him, and so did I too.

2d, Morning. I was wakened at three this morning, my man and the people of the house telling me of a great fire in the *Hay-Market*. I slept again, and two hours after my man came in again, and told me it was my poor brother Sir *William Wyndham's*\* house that is burned†; and that two maids leaping out of an upper room to avoid the fire, fell both on their heads, one of them upon the iron spikes before the door, and both lay dead in the streets. It is supposed to have been some carelessness of one or both those maids. The duke of *Ormond* was there helping to put out the

\* *Wyndham* was a brother of the society.

† It is not much to *Swift's* credit that he went quietly to sleep, after he had been told there was a great fire in the *Hay-Market*, where he knew a friend had a house and family; yet he had a quick and strong sense of the calamities of others. See his letter to Mrs. *Dingley* of Nov. 15, and Dec. 18, 1712.



fire. Brother *Wyndham* gave 6000 *l.* but a few months ago for that house, as he told me, and it was very richly furnished. I shall know more particulars at night. He married lady *Catherine Seymour*, the duke of *Somerset's* daughter; you know her, I believe.

At night. Sir *William Wyndham's* young child escaped very narrowly; lady *Catherine* escaped barefoot; they all went to *Northumberland* house. Mr. *Bridges's* house at next door is damaged much, and was like to be burned. *Wyndham* has lost above 10,000 *l.* by this accident. His lady above 1000 *l.* worth of cloaths. He was not at court to-day. I dined with lord *Masham*. The queen was not at church.

3d, Pray tell *Walls*, that I spoke to the duke of *Ormond* and Mr. *Southwell* about his friend's affair, who, I find, needed not me for a solicitor; for they both told me the thing would be done. I likewise mentioned his own affair to Mr. *Southwell*, and I hope that will be done too; for *Southwell* seems to think it reasonable, and I will mind him of it again. Tell him this nakedly. You need not know the particulars. They are secrets, one of them is about Mrs. *South* having



having a pension ; the other about his salary from the government for the tythes of the park, that lies in his parish, to be put upon the establishment. I dined in the city with my printer, with whom I had some small affair. I have no large work on my hands now. I was with lord treasurer this morning ; and dined with the dean. *Monday* is parson's holiday.

4th, I sat to-day with poor Mrs. *Wesley*, who made me dine with her. She is much better than she was. I heartily pray for her health, out of the intire love I bear to her worthy husband. This day hath passed very insignificantly. But it is a great comfort to me now, that I can come home and read, and have nothing upon my hands to write. I was at lord *Masbam's* to-night, and stayed there till one. Lord treasurer was there ; but I thought he looked melancholy, just as he did at the beginning of the session, and he was not so merry as usual. In short, the majority in the house of lords is a very weak one. He has much ado to keep it up ; and he is not able to make those removes he would, and oblige his friends ; and I doubt too he does not take care enough about it, or rather cannot do all himself, and will not employ others ;



which is his great fault, as I have often told you.

5th, I wish you a merry *Lent*. I hate *Lent*; I hate different diets, and furmity and butter, and herb porridge; and the four devout faces of people, who only put on religion for seven weeks. I was at the secretary's office this morning; and there a gentleman brought me two letters, dated last *October*; one from the bishop of *Clogher*, the other from *Walls*. The gentleman is called colonel *Newburgh*. I think you mentioned him to me some time ago. He has business in the house of lords. I will do him what service I can. The representation of the house of commons is printed; I have not seen it yet; it is plaguy severe, they say. I dined with Dr. *Arbutnot*, and had a true lenten dinner, not in point of victuals, but spleen; for his wife and a child or two were sick in the house, and that was full as mortifying as fish. We have had mighty fine cold frosty weather for some days past. I hope you take the advantage of it, and walk now and then. You never answer that part of my letters, where I desire you to walk. I must keep my breath to cool my lenten porridge.

6th,



6th, I hear Mr. *Prior* has suffered by *Stratford's* breaking. I was yesterday to see *Prior*, who is not well, and I thought he looked melancholy. He can ill afford to lose money. I walked before dinner in the *Mall* a good while with lord *Arran* and lord *Dupplin*, two of my brothers, and then we went to dinner, where the duke of *Beaufort* was our president. We were but eleven to-day.

We are now in all nine lords and ten commoners. The duke of *Beaufort* had the confidence to propose his brother-in-law, the earl of *Darby*, to be a member; but I opposed it so warmly, that it was waved. *Darby* is not above twenty, and we will have no more boys, and we want but two to make up our number. I stayed till eight, and then we all went away soberly. The duke of *Ormond's* treat last week cost 20*l.* though it was only four dishes, and four without a desert; and I bespoke it in order to be cheap, yet I could not prevail to change the house. Lord *Masham* made me go home with him to eat boiled oysters. Take oysters, wash them clean; that is, wash their shells clean; then put your oysters into an earthen pot, with their hol-



low fides down, then put this pot covered into a great kettle with water, and so let them boil. Your oyſters are boiled thus in their own liquor, and not mixed with water. Lord treasurer was not with us; he was very ill to-day with a ſwimming in the head, and is gone to be cupped, and ſent to deſire lady *Mafham* to excuſe him to the queen.

7th, I was to-day at the houſe of lords about a friend's bill. Then I croſs'd the water at *Westminster* ſtairs to *Southwark*, went through *St. George's Fields* to the *Mint*, which is the dominion of the *King's Bench* priſon, where *Stratford* lodges in a blind alley, and writ to me to come to him; but he was gone to the *Change*. I thought he had ſomething to ſay to me about his own affairs. I found him at his uſual coffee-houſe, and went to his old lodgings, and dined with him and his wife, and other company. His buſineſs was only to deſire I would intercede with the miniſtry about his brother-in-law, *Benjamin Burton*, of *Dublin*, the banker, who is like to come into trouble, as we hear, about ſpreading falſe whiggish news. Mrs. *Stratford* tells me her huſband's creditors have  
con-



consented to give him liberty to get up his debts abroad; and she hopes he will pay them all. He was chearfuller than I have seen him this great while. I have walked much to-day.

8th, This day twelve months Mr. *Harley* was stabbed \*. He is ill, and takes physick to-day, I hear, ('tis now morning) and cannot have the cabinet-council with him, as he intended, nor me to say grace. I am going to see him. Pray read the representation; it is the finest that ever was writ. Some of it is my stile; but not very much. This is the day of the queen's accession to the crown, so that it is a great day. I am going to court, and will dine with lord *Masham*; but I must go this moment to the secretary, about some business; so I will seal up this, and put it in the post. Farewel.

\* See the next letter, and note on paragraph dated 13.



LETTER LX.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. JOHNSON.

London, March 8, 1711-12.

**I** Carried my forty-second letter in my pocket till evening, and then put it in the general post. I went in the morning to see lord treasurer, who had taken phyfic, and was drinking his broth. I had been with the secretary before, to recommend a friend, one Dr. *Friend*, to be physician-general; and the secretary promised to mention it to the queen. I can serve every body but myself. Then I went to court, and carried lord keeper and the secretary to dine with lord *Masham*, when we drank the queen and lord treasurer with every health, because this was the day of his stabbing. Then I went and played at picquet with lady *Masham* and Mrs. *Hill*; won ten shillings, gave a crown to the box, and came home. Did I tell you of a race of rakes, called the Mohocks, that play the devil about this town every night, slit people's noses, and beat them?



9th, I was at court to-day, and nobody invited me to dinner, except one or two, whom I did not care to dine with; so I dined with Mrs. *Vanhomrigh*. Young *Davenant* was telling us, how he was set upon by the Mohocks, and how they ran his chair through with a sword. It is not safe being in the streets at night. The bishop of *Salisbury*'s son \* is said to be of the gang. They are all whigs. A great lady sent to me, to speak to her father, and to lord treasurer, to have a care of them, and to be careful likewise of myself; for she heard they had malicious intentions against the ministry, and their friends. I know not whether there be any thing in this, tho' others are of the same opinion. The weather still continues very fair and frosty. I walked in the Park this evening, and came home early, to avoid the Mohocks. Lord treasurer is better.

10th, I went this morning again to lord treasurer, who is quite recovered; and I stayed till he went out. I dined with a friend in the city, about a little business of

\* 'Thomas, then at the *Temple*, afterwards consul at *Lisbon*, and at last one of the justices of the *Common-Pleas*.'



printing ; but not my own. You must buy a small two-penny pamphlet, called, *Law is a bottomless Pit* \*. It is very prettily written, and there will be a second part. The commons are very slow in bringing in their bill to limit the press, and the pamphleteers make good use of their time ; for there come out three or four every day.

11th, Lord treasurer has lent the long letter I writ him to *Prior* † ; and I can't get *Prior* to return it. I want to have it printed, and to make up this academy for the improvement of our language. I dined privately with my friend *Lewis*, and then went to see *Ned Southwell*, and talked with him about *Walls's* business, and Mrs. *South's*. The latter will be done ; but his own not. *Southwell* tells me, that it must be laid before lord treasurer, and the nature of it explained, and a great deal of clutter, which is not worth the while ; and may be, lord treasurer won't do it at last ; and it is, as *Walls* says himself, not above forty shillings a year difference.

\* Or, *The History of John Bull*, written by Dr. *Arbuthnot*, but printed with *Swift's* works.

† Concerning the *English Language*.



12th, There is the devil and all to do with these Mohocks. *Grubstreet* papers about them fly like lightning, and a list printed of near eighty put into several prisons, and all a lye ; and I begin almost to think there is no truth, or very little, in the whole story. He that abused *Davenant*, was a drunken gentleman ; none of that gang. My man tells me, that one of the lodgers heard in a coffee-house, publicly, that one design of the Mohocks was upon me, if they could catch me ; and, though I believe nothing of it, I forbear walking late, and they have put me to the charge of some shillings already. I dined to-day with lord treasurer, and two gentlemen of the Highlands of *Scotland* ; yet very polite men. I sat there till nine, and then went to lord *Masham's*, where lord treasurer followed me, and we sat till twelve ; and I came home in a chair, for fear of the Mohocks ; and I have given him warning of it too. Little *Harrison*, whom I sent to *Holland*, is now actually made queen's secretary at the *Hague*. It will be in the Gazette to-morrow. It is worth one thousand two hundred pounds a year \*.

\* See a letter from this gentleman to the Dean, dated Dec. 16, 1712.



Here is a young fellow, who has writ some sea-eclogues, poems of mermen, resembling pastorals of shepherds, and they are very pretty. The thought is new; mermen are he-mermaids, tritons, natives of the sea. Do you understand me? I think to recommend him to our society to-morrow. His name is *Diaper* \*, p— on him; I must do something for him, and get him out of the way. I hate to have any new wits rise; but, when they do rise, I would encourage them; they tread on our heels, and thrust us off the stage.

13th, You would laugh to see our printer constantly attending our society after dinner, and bringing us whatever new thing he has printed, which he seldom fails to do. Lord *Lansdown*, one of our society, was offended at a passage in this day's *Examiner*, which, he thinks, reflects on him, as I believe it does, though in a mighty civil way. It is only that † his underlings

\* 'John Diaper, educated at *Baliol College, Oxford*.'

† 'In the *Examiner*, Vol. II. No. 15. from Tuesday, March 6, to Tuesday, March 13, 1711, was published the following letter, addressed to the *Examiner*.'

S I R,

Y O U have been so taken up with censuring the corruptions of the *adverse party*, that you seem to have wanted



cheat ; but that he is a very fine gentleman every way, &c. Lord Orrery was

wanted either time or disposition, to take notice of those among your *own* ; which, tho' not so *flagrant*, or universal, do daily produce very pernicious consequences. I know a certain person in employment, who besides the firmness of his *principles*, in respect to the present proceedings of the court, is a man of undoubted honour and virtue, of admirable sense and learning, and every way qualified for the execution of any office. I am convinced as much as it is possible to be of any truth, that no *bribe* whatsoever can corrupt his integrity, or sway him in the least to act against his opinion ; being just and liberal in his nature, and easy in his fortune : yet so it happens, that there are no where greater, or grosser abuses ; no where more *bribery* and *oppression*, than what are practised by those, who are employed under him. The worst of it is, that these mischiefs are the *accidental* effects of this *person's* good qualities, whose spirit being above any sordid aims of his own, can never be brought to suspect them in those, whom he hath thought fit to trust. This candid disposition not only unqualifies him from suspecting any abuses in his *officers* ; but likewise from admitting or believing whatever complaints are made against them. By this means, the public is wholly disappointed of all the good effects, it might hope from a worthy man being in employment. The chief *underlings*, by oppressing not only those, who apply to them for business, but their own inferiors in office, grow to much greater riches than their master ; and it is an aggravation, that since the public must be defrauded, the profit should accrue to those, who least deserve it. I hope all those, who are in high station, if they chance to read this paper, will from hence take the hint to examine amongst their dependants, by what means some of them have come, in so short a time, to such prodigious wealth ; and thereupon proceed to punish those crimes, from which themselves are so *exempt*. I therefore desire you will be pleased to print this letter in your next paper, if you think it deserves that



president to-day ; but both our dukes were absent. Brother *Wyndham* recommended *Diaper* to the society. I believe we shall make a contribution among ourselves, which I don't like. Lord treasurer has yet done nothing for us ; but we shall try him soon. The company parted early ; but *Friend*, and *Prior*, and I, sat a while longer, and reformed the state, and found fault with the ministry. *Prior* hates his commission of the customs, because it spoils his wit. He says he dreams of nothing but cockets, and docketts, and drawbacks, and other jargon, words of the custom-house. Our good weather went away yesterday, and the nights are now dark, and I came home before ten.

14th, I have been plagued this morning with solicitors, and with nobody more than my brother, Dr. *Friend*, who must needs have me get old Dr. *Lawrence*, the physician-general, turned out, and himself in. He has argued with me so long upon the reasonableness of it, that I am fully convinced it is very unreasonable ; and so I that honour, and give the public and me your opinion of the matter.

I am, with much respect, Sir,

Your most humble Servant.

would



would tell the secretary, if I had not already made him speak to the queen. Besides, I know not but my friend, Dr. *Arbutnot*, would be content to have it himself, and I love him ten times better than *Friend*. What's all this to you? but I must talk of things as they happen in the day, whether you know any thing of them or not. I dined in the city, and, coming back, one parson *Richardson* \*, of *Ireland*, overtook me. He was here last summer, upon a project of converting the *Irish*, and printing bibles, &c. in that language, and is now returned to pursue it. He tells me, Dr. *Coghill* came last night to town. I will send to see how he does to-morrow.

15th, I had intended to be early with the

\* ' *John Richardson*, a clergyman of *Ireland*, who, in 1711, published at *Dublin*, in quarto, *A Proposal for the Conversion of the Popish Natives of Ireland, to the established religion. With the Reasons, upon which it is grounded, and an Answer to the Objections made to it.* And in 1713 he published, at *London*, in octavo, *A short History of the Attempts, that have been made to convert the Popish Natives of Ireland to the established Religion. With a Proposal for their Conversion, and a Vindication of Archbishop Usher's Opinion concerning the Performance of divine Offices to them in their own Language. The second Edition, with Additions.* In the title-page the author styles himself rector of *An-nalt*, alias *Belturbet*, in the diocese of *Kilmore* in *Ireland*, and chaplain to his grace the duke of *Ormond*, and the lord bishop of *Clogher*.'

secretary



secretary this morning, when my man admitted up-stairs one Mr. *Newcomb*, an officer, who brought me a letter from the bishop of *Clogher*, with four lines added by Mrs. *Ashe*, all about that *Newcomb*. I think, indeed, his case is hard; but God knows whether I shall be able to do him any service. People will not understand: I am a very good second, but I care not to begin a recommendation, unless it be for an intimate friend. However, I will do what I can. I missed the secretary, and then walked to *Chelsea*, to dine with the dean of *Christ-church* \*, who was engaged to lord *Orrery*, with some other *Christ-church* men. He made me go with him, whether I would or no; for they have, this long time, admitted me a *Christ-church* man. Lord *Orrery*, generally every winter, gives his old acquaintance of that college a dinner. There were nine clergymen at table, and four laymen. The dean and I soon left them; and after a visit or two, I went to lord *Masham's*; and lord treasurer, *Arbutnot*, and I, sat till twelve. I came

\* Dr. *Francis Atterbury*, who was promoted to that deanry in September 1711, on the death of Dr. *Henry Aldrich*.



home a-foot, but had my man with me. Lord treasurer advised me not to go in a chair, because the Mohocks, insult chairs more than they do those on foot. They think there is some mischievous design in those villains. Several of them, lord treasurer told me, are actually taken up. I heard, at dinner, that one of them was killed last night. We shall know more in a little time.

16th, This morning, at the secretary's, I met general *Ross*, and recommended *Newcomb's* case to him, who promises to join me in working up the duke of *Ormond* to do something for him. Lord *Winchelsea* told me to day at court, that two of the Mohocks caught a maid of old lady *Winchelsea's*, at the door of their house in the Park, with a candle, as she had just lighted out somebody. They cut her face, and beat her without any provocation. I hear my friend *Lewis* has got a Mohock in one of the messenger's hands. The queen was at church to-day, but was carried in an open chair. She has got an ugly cough, as *Arbutnot*, her physician, says. I dined with *Crow*, late governor of *Barbadoes*, an acquaintance of *Sterne's*. After dinner, I  
asked



asked him, whether he had heard of *Sterne*? Here he is, said he, at the door in a coach; and in came *Sterne*. He has been here this week. He is buying a captainship, in his cousin *Sterne's* regiment. He told me, he left *Jemmy Leigh* playing at cards with you. He is to give eight hundred guineas for his commission.

17th, Dr. *Sacheverel* came this morning, to give me thanks for getting his brother an employment. It was but six or seven weeks since I spoke to lord treasurer for him. *Sacheverel* brought *Trap* \* along with him. We dined together at my printer's, and I sat with them till seven. I little thought, and I believe so did he, that ever I should be his solicitor to the present ministry, when I left *Ireland*. This is the seventh I have now provided for since I came, and can do nothing for myself. I don't care; I shall have *ministries* and *other people*, obliged to me. *Trap* is a coxcomb, and the other is not very deep; and their judgment in things of wit and sense,

\* *Joseph Trap*, M. A. then professor of poetry in the university of *Oxford*. He had published there, in 1711, the first volume of his *Prælectiones poeticæ*, with a dedication to Mr. secretary *St. John*.



is miraculous. The second part of *Late* is a *bottomless Pit* is just now printed, and better, I think, than the first.

18th, There is a proclamation out against the Mohocks. One of those that are taken, is a baronet. I dined with poor Mrs. *Wesley*, who is returning to the *Bath*. I walked this evening in the Park, and met *Prior*, who made me go home with him, where I stayed till past twelve, and could not get a coach, and was alone, and was afraid enough of the Mohocks. I will do so no more, though I got home safe. *Prior* and I were talking discontentedly of some managements, that no more people are turned out, which gets lord treasurer many enemies; but whether the fault be in him, or the queen, I know not; I doubt, in both. I wish you good luck at ombre with the dean.

19th, *Newcomb* came to me this morning, and I went to the duke of *Ormond* to speak for him; but the duke was just going out to take the oaths for general. The duke of *Shrewsbury* is to be lord lieutenant of *Ireland*. I walked with *Domville* and *Ford* to *Kensington*, where we dined, and it cost me above a crown. I don't



like it, as my man said. It was very windy walking. The gardens there are mighty fine. I passed the evening at lord *Masbam's*, with lord treasurer, and *Arbutnot*, as usual, and we stayed till past one; but I had my man to come with me, and at home I found three letters; one from one *Fetherston*, a parson, with a postscript of *Tindall's* to recommend him. And *Fetherston*, whom I never saw, has been so kind as to give me a letter of attorney, to recover a debt for him; another from lord *Abercorn*, to get him the dukedom of *Chatellaraud* from the king of *France*; in which I will do what I can, for his pretensions are very just: the third from you. It is a great air this, of getting a dukedom from the king of *France*; but it is only to speak to the secretary, and get the duke of *Ormond* to engage in it, and mention the case to lord treasurer, &c. and this I shall do.

20th, I was with the duke of *Ormond* this morning, about lord *Abercorn*, Dr. *Friend*, and *Newcomb*. Some will do, and some will not do. The duke of *Skrewsbury* is certainly to be your governor. I will go in a day or two, and give the duchess joy, and recommend the archbishop of  
Dub-



*Dublin* to her. I writ to the archbishop, some months ago, that it would be so; and told him I would speak a good word for him to the duchess; and he says he has a great respect for her, &c. I made our society change their house, and we met to-day at the star and garter in the *Pallmall*. Lord *Arran* was president. The other dog was so extravagant in his bills, that, for four dishes, and four, first and second course, without wine or desert, he charged twenty-one pounds, six shillings, and eightpence, to the duke of *Ormond*. We design, when all have been presidents this turn, to turn it into a reckoning of so much a head; but we shall break up when the session ends.

21st, I am not dean of *Wells*, nor know any thing of being so; nor is there any thing in the story; and that's enough. It was not *Roper* sent that news: *Roper* is my humble slave. I will bring over all the little papers I can think on. I thought I sent you, by *Leigh*, all that were good at that time. The author of the *Sea Eclogues* sent books to the society yesterday, and we gave him guineas a-piece; and, may be, will do further for him. So the bishop of



*Clogher*, and lady, were your guests for a night or two. The session, I doubt, will not be over till the end of *April*; however, I shall not wait for it, if the ministry will let me go sooner. I wish I were just now in my little garden at *Laracor*. I would set out for *Dublin*, and bring you an account of my young trees. I will do what you desire me for *Tisdall*, when I next see lord *Anglesea*.

## L E T T E R LXI.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, March 22, 1711-12.

U G L Y, nasty weather. I dined with a friend, and went to see lord treasurer; but he had people with him I did not know: so I went to lady *Masham*, and lost a crown with her at picquet, and then sat with lord *Masham* and lord treasurer, &c. till past one; but I had my man with me, to come home. Our Mohocks are all vanished; however, I shall take care of my person.

23d, I was this morning, before church, with the secretary, about lord *Abercorn's* business, and some others. My soliciting  
season



season is come, and will last as long as the session. I went late to court, and the company was almost gone. The court serves me for a coffee-house; once a week I meet an acquaintance there, that I should not otherwise see in a quarter. There is a flying report, that the *French* have offered a cessation of arms, and to give us *Dunkirk*, and the *Dutch Namure*, for security, till the peace is made. The duke of *Ormond*, they say, goes in a week. Abundance of his equipage is already gone. His friends are afraid the expence of this employment will ruin him, since he must lose the government of *Ireland*. I dined privately with a friend, and refused all dinners offered me at court; which, however, were but two, and I did not like either. Did I tell you of a scoundrel about the court, that sells employments to ignorant people, and cheats them of their money? He lately made a bargain for the vice-chamberlain's place, for seven thousand pounds, and had received some guineas earnest; but the whole thing was discovered the other day, and examinations taken of it by lord *Dartmouth*, and I hope he will be swung. The



vice-chamberlain told me several particulars of it last night at lord *Masbam's*.

24th, This morning I recommended *Newcomb* again to the duke of *Ormond*, and left *Dick Stewart* to do it farther. Then I went to visit the duchess of *Hamilton*, who was not awake. So I went to the duchess of *Shrewsbury*, and sat an hour at her toilet. I talked to her about the duke's being lord lieutenant. She said she knew nothing of it; but I railled her out of that, and she resolves not to stay behind the duke. I intend to recommend the bishop of *Clogher* to her for an acquaintance. He will like her very well: she is, indeed, a most agreeable woman, and a great favourite of mine. I know not whether the ladies in *Ireland* will like her. I was at the *Court of Requests*, to get some lords to be at a committee to-morrow, about a friend's bill: and then the duke of *Beaufort* gave me a poem, finely bound in folio, printed at *Stamford*, and writ by a country 'squire. Lord *Exeter* desired the duke to give it the queen, because the author is his friend; but the duke desired I would let him know whether it was good for any thing. I brought



brought it home, and will return it to-morrow, as the dullest thing I ever read ; and advise the duke not to present it. I dined with *Domville* at his lodgings, by invitation. He goes in a few days for *Ireland*.

25th, There is a mighty feast at a tory sheriff's to-day in the city ; twelve hundred dishes of meat. About five lords, and several hundred gentlemen, will be there, and give four or five guineas a-piece, according to custom. Dr. *Cogbill* and I dined, by invitation, at Mrs. *Van's* \*. It has rained or mizzled all day, as my pockets feel. There are two new answers come out to *The Conduct of the Allies*. The last year's *Examiners*, printed together in a small volume, go off but slowly. The printer over-printed himself by at least a thousand ; so soon out of fashion are party-papers, however so well writ. The *Medleys* are coming out in the same volume, and perhaps may sell better. Our news about a cessation of arms begins to fly, and I have not these three days seen any body in business to ask them about it. We had a terrible fire last night in *Drury-Lane*, or thereabouts, and three or four people de-

\* *Vanhomrigh*.



stroyed. One of the maids of honour has the small-pox ; but the best is, she can lose no beauty ; and we have one new handsome maid of honour.

26th, I forgot to tell you, that on *Sunday* last, about seven at night, it lightened above fifty times as I walked the *Mall*, which I think is extraordinary at this time of the year, and the weather was very hot. Had you any thing of this in *Dublin* ? I intended to dine with lord treasurer to-day ; but lord *Mansel* and Mr. *Lewis* made me dine with them at *Kit Musgrave's*. Now you don't know who *Kit Musgrave* \*is. The news of the *French* desiring a cessation of arms, &c. was but town-talk. We shall know in a few days, as I am told, whether there will be a peace or no. The duke of *Ormond* will go in a week for *Flanders*, they say. Our Mohocks go on still, and cut people's faces every night ; but they shan't cut mine. I like it better as it is. The dogs will cost me at least a crown a week in chairs. I believe the souls of your houghers of cattle have got into them, and now they don't distinguish between a *cow* and a *Christian*. I ought to

\* *Christopher Musgrave, Esq; clerk of the ordnance.*  
wish



with you yesterday a happy new year. You know the twenty-fifth of *March* is the first day of the year, and now you must leave off cards, and put out your fire. I'll put out mine the first of *April*, cold or not cold. I believe I shall lose credit with you, by not coming over at the beginning of *April*; but I hoped this session would be ended, and I must stay till then; yet I would fain be at the beginning of my willows growing. *Percival* tells me, that the quick-fets upon the flat in the garden do not grow so well as those famous ones on the ditch. They want digging about them. The cherry-trees, by the river-side, my heart is set upon.

27th, Society-day, you know: I suppose Dr. *Arbutnot* was president. His dinner was dressed in the queen's kitchen, and was mighty fine. We eat it at *Ozinda's* coffee-house, just by *St. James's*. We were never merrier, nor better company, and did not part till after eleven. I did not summons lord *Lansdown*: he and I are fallen out. There was something in an *Examiner* \* a fortnight ago, that, he thought, reflected

\* 'That of *March* 13, 1711. See letter dated *March* 8, 1711-12.'



on the abuses in his office, (he is secretary at war) and he writ to the secretary, that he heard I had inserted that paragraph. This I resented highly, that he should complain of me before he spoke to me. I sent him a peppering letter, and would not summon him by a note, as I did the rest; nor ever will have any thing to say to him, till he begs my pardon. I met lord treasurer to-day at lady *Masham's*. He would fain have carried me home to dinner. No, no; what! upon a society-day!

28th, I was with my friend *Lewis* to-day, getting materials for a little mischief; and I dined with lord treasurer, and three or four fellows I never saw before. I left them at seven, and came home, and have been writing to the archbishop of *Dublin*, and cousin *Deane*, in answer to one of his of four months standing, that I spied by chance among my papers. *Domville* is going to *Ireland*; he came here this morning to take leave of me, but I shall dine with him to-morrow. Does the bishop of *Clogher* talk of coming for *England* this summer? I think lord *Molesworth* told me so about two months ago. The weather is bad again; rainy and very cold this evening.

Do



Do you know what the longitude is? A projector has been applying himself to me, to recommend him to the ministry, because he pretends to have found out the longitude. However, I will gravely hear what he says, and discover him a knave or a fool.

29th, I am plagued with a pain in my shoulder; I believe it is rheumatic; I will do something for it to-night. Mr. *Lewis* and I dined with Mr. *Domville*, to take our leave of him. I drank three or four glasses of champaign by perfect teasing, tho' it is bad for my pain; but if it continues, I will not drink any wine without water till I am well. The weather is abominably cold and wet. I have put flannel to my shoulder, and rubbed it with *Hungary* water. It is hard. I never would drink any wine, if it were not for my head, and drinking has given me this pain. I will try abstemiousness for a while. You must know I hate pain, as the old woman said. My flesh sucks up *Hungary* water rarely. My man is an awkward rascal, and makes me peevish. Do you know, that the other day he was forced to beg my pardon, that he could not shave my head, his hand shook so? He is drunk



drunk every day, and I design to turn him off as soon as ever I get to *Ireland*.

30th, I was not able to go to church or court to-day. The pain has left my shoulder, and crept to my neck and collar-bone. Dogs gnawing. I went in a chair at two, and dined with Mrs. *Van*, where I could be easy, and came back at seven. It has rained terribly hard all day long, and is extremely cold. I am very uneasy, and have cruel twinges every moment.

31st, *April* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. All these days I have been extremely ill; tho' I twice crawled out a week ago, tho' very weak. The pain encreases, with mighty violence in my left shoulder and collar-bone, and that side my neck. On *Thursday* morning appeared great red spots in all these places where my pain was, which was so violent, that I had not a minute's ease, nor hardly a minute's sleep in three days and nights. The spots encreased every day, and red little pimples, which are now grown white, and full of corruption, tho' small. The red still continues too, and most prodigious hot and inflamed. The disease is the shingles. I eat nothing but water-gruel; am very weak; but out of all



all violent pain. The doctors say it would have ended in some violent disease, if it had not come out thus. I shall now recover fast. I have been in no danger of life, but miserable torture. So adieu. The next letter will not be in the old order of journal, till I have done with phyfic.

## LETTER LXII.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. JOHNSON.

London, April 24, 1712.

**I** HAD yours two or three days ago. I can hardly answer it now. Since my last I have been extremely ill. 'Tis this day just a month since I felt the pain on the tip of my left shoulder. Where my pain was, a cruel itching seized me, beyond whatever I could imagine, and kept me awake several nights. I rubbed it vehemently, but did not scratch it; then it grew into three or four great fores like blisters, and run; at last I advised the doctor to use it like a blister, so I did with melilot plaisters, which still run; and I am now in pain enough, but am daily mending. I kept my chamber a fortnight, then went out a day or two, but



but confined myself two days ago. I went to a neighbour to dine, but yesterday again kept at home. To-day I will venture abroad, and hope to be well in a week or ten days. I never suffered so much in my life. I will go and try to walk a little. Farewel.

### L E T T E R LXIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, May 10, 1712.

**I** HAVE not yet ease or humour enough to go on in my journal method, though I have left my chamber these ten days. A journal, while I was sick, would have been a noble thing, made up of pain and physic, visits, and messages; the two last were almost as troublesome as the two first. One good circumstance is, that I am grown much leaner. In answer to your good opinion of my disease, the doctors said they never saw any thing so odd of the kind; they were not properly shingles, but *herpes miliaris*, and twenty other hard names. I can never be sick like other people, but always something out of the common way; and as for your notion of its coming with-



out pain, it neither came, nor stayed, nor went, without pain, and the most pain I ever bore in my life. It is not a sign of health, but a sign, that if it had not come out, some terrible fit of sickness would have followed. I was at our society last *Thursday*, to receive a new member, the chancellor of the exchequer; but I drink nothing above wine and water. We shall have a peace soon, I hope, or at least intirely broke; but I believe the first. My letter to lord treasurer, about the *English* tongue, is now printing; and I suffer my name to be put at the end of it, which I never did before in my life. The appendix to the third part of *John Bull* was published yesterday; it is equal to the rest. I hope you read *John Bull*. It was a *Scotch* gentleman, a friend of mine, that writ it; but they put it upon me. The parliament will hardly be up till *June*. We were like to be undone some days ago with a tack\*; but we carried it bravely, and the whigs came in to help us. Poor lady *Masham*, I am afraid, will lose her only son, about a

\* A tack is a bill tacked to a money bill, that as both must be passed or rejected together, the tacked bill may pass, because the money bill must.



twelvemonth old, with the king's evil. *Bernage* has been twice to see me of late. His regiment will be broke, and he only upon half-pay ; so perhaps he thinks he will want me again. I have been returning the visits of those, that sent how do you in my sickness ? particularly the duchess of *Hamilton*, who came and sat with me two hours. I make bargains with all people that I dine with, to let me scrub my back against a chair ; and the duchess of *Ormond* was forced to bear it the other day. Many of my friends are gone to *Kensington*, where the queen has been removed for some time. This is a long letter for a sick body. I will begin the next in the journal way, though my journals will be sorry ones. My left-hand is very weak, and trembles ; but my right side has not been touched. This is a pitiful letter for want of a better ; but plagued with a tetter my fancy does fether. Ah ! my poor willows and quicksets ! Well, but you must read *John Bull* : do you understand it at all ? Farewel.

L E T-



## L E T T E R LXIV.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, May 31, 1712.

I CANNOT yet arrive to my journal letters, my pains continuing still, though with less violence; but I don't love to write journals while I am in pain. But however, I am so much mended, that I intend my next shall be in the old way; and yet I shall, perhaps, break my resolution when I feel pain. I believe I have lost credit with you, in relation to my coming over; but I protest it is impossible for one, who has any thing to do with this ministry, to be certain when he fixes any time. There is a business, which, till it take some turn or other, I cannot leave this place in prudence or honour. And I never inclined so much as now, that I had stayed in *Ireland*; but the dye is cast, and is now a spinning, and till it settles, I cannot tell whether it be an ace or a six. The moment I am used ill, I will leave them; but know not how to do it while things are in suspense. The sessions will soon be over (I believe in a fortnight) and the peace, we hope,



will be made in a short time ; and there will be no further occasion for me ; nor have I any thing to trust to but court gratitude ; so that I expect to see my willows a month after the parliament is up. Have you seen my letter to lord treasurer ? There are two answers come out to it already ; though it is no politics, but a harmless proposal about the improvement of the *English* tongue. I believe if I writ an essay upon a straw, some fool would answer it. I am just now thinking to go lodge at *Ken-sington*, for the air. Lady *Masham* has teased me to do it, but business has hindered me ; but now lord treasurer has removed thither. Fifteen of our society dined together under a canopy in an arbour at *Parson's-Green* last *Thursday* ; I never saw any thing so fine and romantic. We got a great victory last *Wednesday* in the house of lords by a majority, I think, of twenty-eight ; and the whigs had desired their friends to bespeak places to see lord treasurer carried to the *Tower*. I met your *Higgins* here yesterday ; he roars at the insolence of the whigs in *Ireland*, talks much of his own sufferings and expences in asserting the cause of the church ; and I find he would fain  
plead



plead merit enough to desire, that his fortune should be mended. I believe he designs to make as much noise as he can, in order to preferment. I am printing a threepenny pamphlet, and shall print another in a fortnight, and then I have done, unless some new occasion starts. I believe the news of the duke of *Ormond* producing letters in the council of war, with orders not to fight, will surprize you in *Ireland*. Lord treasurer said in the house of lords, that in a few days the treaty of peace should be laid before them; and our court thought it wrong to hazard a battle, and sacrifice many lives in such a juncture. If the peace holds, all will do well, otherwise I know not how we shall weather it. And it was reckoned as a wrong step in politics, for lord treasurer to open himself so much. The secretary would not go so far to satisfy the whigs in the house of commons; but there all went swimmingly. I dined the other day with lord *Rivers*, who is sick at his country-house, and he shewed me all his cherries blasted. Farewel.



## L E T T E R LXV.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

Kenfington, June 17, 1712.

I HAVE lodged hear near a fortnight, partly for the air and exercise, partly to be near the court, where dinners are to be found. I generally get a lift in a coach to town, and in the evening I walk back. On *Saturday* I dined with the duchefs of *Ormond*, at her lodge near *Skeen*, and thought to get a boat as usual. I walked by the bank to *Kew*, but no boat; then to *Mortlake*, but no boat; and it was nine o'clock. At last a little sculler called, full of nasty people. I made him set me down at *Hammer-smith*, so walked two miles to this place, and got here by eleven. Last night I had another such difficulty. I was in the city till past ten at night; it rained hard, but no coach to be had. It was over a little, and I walked all the way here, and got home by twelve. I love these shabby difficulties when they are over; but I hate them, because they arise from not having a thousand pounds a year. I had yours about three days ago, which I will now answer.



fewer. And first, I did not relapse, but I came out before I ought. The first going abroad made people think I was quite recovered, and I had no more messages afterwards. Well, but *John Bull* is not wrote by the person you imagine. It is too good for another to own. Had it been *Grubstreet*, I would have let people think as they please; and I think that's right: is it not? I am against Dr. *Smith*. I drink little water with my wine, yet I believe he is right. Dr. *Cockburn* told me a little wine would not hurt me; but it is hot and dry, and water is dangerous. The worst thing here is my evenings at lord *Masham's*, where lord treasurer comes, and we sit till after twelve. But it is convenient I should be among them for a while as much as possible. I need not tell you why. But I hope that will be at an end in a month or two, one way or other, and I am resolved it shall; but I can't go to *Tunbridge*, or any where else out of the way, in this juncture. *Higgins* is here, roaring that all is wrong in *Ireland*, and would have me get him an audience of lord treasurer to tell him so; but I will have nothing to do in it, no not I. We have had no thunder till last night,



and till then we were dead for want of rain ; but there fell a great deal : no field looked green. I reckon the queen will go to *Windsor* in three or four weeks ; and if the secretary takes a house there, I shall be sometimes with him. I heard somebody coming up stairs, and forgot I was in the country. I was afraid of a visiter ; that is one advantage of being here, that I am not teased with solicitors. *Moult* the chymist is my acquaintance. I sent the question to him about Sir *Walter Raleigh's* cordial, and the answer he returned is in these words ; “ my service to Dr. *Smith* ; it is directly after Mr. *Boyle's* receipt.” That commission is performed ; if he wants any of it, *Moult* shall use him fairly. I suppose *Smith* is one of your physicians. Well, but now for the peace : why we expect it daily ; but the *French* have the staff in their own hands, and we trust to their honesty. I wish it were otherwise. Things are now in the way of being soon in the extreams of well or ill. I hope and believe the first. Lord *Wharton* is gone out of town in a rage, and curses himself and friends for ruining themselves in defending lord *Marlborough* and *Godolphin*, and taking *Nottingham* into  
their



their favour. He swears he will meddle no more during this reign ; a pretty speech at sixty-six, and the queen is near twenty years younger, and now in very good health ; for you must know her health is fixed by a certain reason, that she has done with braces (I must use the expression) and nothing ill has happened to her since ; so she has a new lease of her life. Read *The Letter to a Whig Lord* \*. Farewel.

# LETTER LXVI.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

Kensington, July 1, 1712.

I NEVER was in a worse station for writing letters, than this ; for I go to town early ; and when I come home at night, I generally go to lord *Masham's*, where lord treasurer comes, and we stay till past twelve ; but I am now resolved to write journals again, tho' my shoulder is not yet well. It is now high cherry-time with us ; take

\* ' It was published under the title of *A Letter from the Pretender to a Whig Lord*, dated at *Germain's*, July 8, 1712. The design of this fictitious letter was to throw off the odium of an intention to bring in the pretender, from the high church party, on their antagonists the whigs.'



notice. Is it so soon with you? And we have early apricots; and gooseberries are ripe. On *Sunday* archdeacon *Parnel* came here to see me. It seems he has been ill for grief of his wife's death, and has been two months at the *Bath*. He has a mind to go to *Dunkirk* with *Jack Hill*, and I persuade him to it, and have spoke to *Hill* to receive him; but I doubt he won't have spirit to go. I have made *Ford* \* *Gazetteer*, and got two hundred pounds a year settled on the employment, by the secretaries of state, beside the perquisites. It is the prettiest employment in *England* of its bigness; yet the puppy does not seem satisfied with it. I think people keep some follies to themselves, till they have occasion to produce them. He thinks it not genteel enough, and makes twenty difficulties. It is impossible to make any man easy. His salary is paid him every week, if he pleases, without taxes or abatements. He has little to do for it. He has a pretty office, with coals, candles, papers, &c. can frank what letters he will; and his perquisites, if he takes care, may be worth one

\* *Charles Ford*, Esq; several of whose letters are in this collection.



hundred pounds more. I hear the bishop of *Clogher* is landing, or landed, in *England*; and I hope to see him in a few days. I was to see Mrs. *Bradley* on *Sunday* night. Her youngest son is to marry somebody worth nothing, and her daughter was forced to leave lady *Giffard* \*, because she was striking up an intrigue with a footman, who played well on the flute. This is the mother's account of it. Yesterday the old bishop of *Worcester* †, who pretends to be a prophet, went to the queen, by appointment, to prove to her majesty, out of *Daniel* and the *Revelations*, that four years hence there would be a war of religion; that the king of *France* would be a Protestant, and fight on their side; that the popedom would be destroyed, &c. And declared, that he would be content to give up his bishopric, if it were not true. Lord treasurer, who told it me, was by, and some others; and I am told lord treasurer confounded him sadly in his own learning, which made the old fool very quarrelsome. He is near ninety years old. Have you

\* ' *Martha*, sister to Sir *William Temple*. She died in 1722, aged 84.'

† ' Dr. *William Lloyd*.'



seen *Toland's* invitation to *Dismal* \* ? How do you like it ? But it is an imitation of *Horace*, and perhaps you do not understand *Horace*. Here has been a great sweep of employments, and we expect still more removals. The court seems resolved to make thorough work. Mr. *Hill* intended to set out to-morrow for *Dunkirk*, of which he is appointed governor ; but he tells me to-day, he cannot go till *Thursday* or *Friday*. I wish it were over. Mr. secretary tells me, he is in no fear at all, that *France* will play tricks with us. If we have *Dunkirk* once, all is safe. We rail now all against the *Dutch*, who indeed have acted like knaves, fools, and madmen. Mr. secretary is soon to be made a viscount. He desired I would draw the preamble of his patent ; but I excused myself from a work, that might lose me a great deal of reputation, and get me very little. We would fain have the court make him an earl, but it will not be ; and therefore he will not take the title of *Bolingbroke*, which is lately extinct in the elder branch of his family. I have advised him to be called

\* The earl of *Nottingham*. See the poem among the posthumous pieces published by Mr. *Deane Swift*.



lord *Pomfret*; but he thinks that title is already in some other family; and, besides, he objects, that it is in *Yorkshire*, where he has no estate; but there is nothing in that, and I love *Pomfret*. Why? 'Tis in all our histories; they are full of *Pomfret-castle*. *Steele* was arrested the other day for making a lottery, directly against an act of parliament. He is now under prosecution; but they think it will be dropped out of pity. I believe he will very soon lose his employment, for he has been mighty impertinent of late in his *Spectators*; and I will never offer a word in his behalf. *Raymond* writes me word, that the bishop of *Meath* \* was going to summon me, in order to suspension for absence, if the provost had not prevented him. I am prettily rewarded for getting them their first-fruits. We have had very little hot weather during the whole month of *June*; and, for a week past, we have had a great deal of rain, tho' not every day. I am just now told, that the governor of *Dunkirk* has not orders yet to deliver up the town to *Jack Hill* and his forces, but expects them daily.

\* 'Dr. *William Moreton*, translated to that see from *Kildare* in 1705. He died the twenty-first of November 1715.'



This must put off *Hill's* journey a while, and I don't like these stoppings in such an affair. Farewel.

## L E T T E R LXVII.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

Kenfington, July 17, 1712.

I AM weary of living in this place, and glad to leave it soon. The queen goes on *Tuesday* to *Windsor*, and I shall follow in three or four days after. I can do nothing here, going early to *London*, and coming late from it, and supping at lady *Masham's*. I dined to-day with the duke of *Argyle* at *Kew*, and would not go to the court to-night, because of writing to you. Since *Dunkirk* has been in our hands, *Grubstreet* has been very fruitful. I have wrote five or six *Grubstreet* papers this last week.

Have you seen *Toland's* invitation to *Dismal*, or a hue and cry after *Dismal*, or a ballad on *Dunkirk*, or an agreement that *Dunkirk* is not in our hands? Poh! You have seen nothing. I am dead here with the hot weather; yet I walk every night home, and believe it does me good; but  
my



my shoulder is not yet right ; itchings and scratchings, and small aking. I have heard of the bishop's \* making me uneasy, but I did not think it was because I never wrote to him. A little would make me write to him. I find I am obliged to the provost, for keeping the bishop from being impertinent. I never talked to *Higgins* but once in the street, and I believe, he and I shall hardly meet, but by chance. What care I, whether my letter to lord treasurer be commended there or no ? Why does not somebody among you answer it, as three or four have done here ? You hear secretary *St. John* is made viscount *Bolingbroke*. I could hardly persuade him to take that title, because the eldest branch of his family had it in an earldom, and it was last year extinct. *Jack Hill* sent his sister a pattern of a head-dress from *Dunkirk* ; it was like a fashion twenty years ago, only not quite so high, and looks very ugly. I have made *Trap* chaplain to lord *Bolingbroke*, and he is mighty happy and thankful for it. Mr. *Addison* returned me my visit this morning. He lives in our town. I shall be mighty retired, and mighty busy for a while at

\* ' *Of Meath.*'



*Windsor.* Pray why don't you go to *Trim*, and see *Laracor*, and give me an account of the garden, and the river, and the hollies, and the cherry-trees on the river-walk?

19th, I could not send this letter last post, being called away before I could finish it. I dined yesterday with lord treasurer; sat with him till ten at night; yet could not find a minute for some business I had with him. He brought me to *Kensington*, and lord *Bolingbroke* would not let me go away till two. To-day there will be another *Grub*, *A letter from the Pretender to a whig lord.* *Grubstreet* has but ten days to live; then an act of parliament takes place, that ruins it, by taxing every half-sheet at a half-penny. We have news just come, but not the particulars, that the earl of *Albemarle*, at the head of eight thousand *Dutch*, is beaten, lost the greatest part of his men, and himself made a prisoner. This perhaps may cool their courage, and make them think of a peace. The duke of *Ormond* has got abundance of credit by his good conduct of affairs in *Flanders*. Farewel.



## L E T T E R LXVIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, Aug. 7, 1712.

I LEFT *Windsor* on *Monday* last, upon lord *Bolingbroke's* being gone to *France*; and somebody's being here, that I ought often to consult with in an affair I am upon: but that person talks of returning to *Windsor* again, and I believe I shall follow him. I am now in a hedge lodging very busy, as I am every day till noon; so that this letter is like to be short, and you are not to blame me these two months; for I protest, if I study ever so hard, I believe I cannot in that time compass what I am upon. We have a fever both here and at *Windsor*, which hardly any body misses; but it lasts not above three or four days, and kills nobody. The queen had forty servants down in it at once. I dined yesterday with lord treasurer, but could do no business, though he sent for me, I thought, on purpose; but he desires I will dine with him again to-day. *Windsor* is a most delightful place, and at this time abounds in dinners. My lodgings look upon *Eaton* and the *Thames*. I wish I  
3 was



was owner of them ; they belong to a prebend. Do you know, that *Grubstreet* is dead and gone last week ? No more ghosts or murders now for love or money. I plied it pretty close the last fortnight, and published at least seven penny papers of my own, besides some of other people's ; but now every single half sheet pays a halfpenny to the queen. The *Observer* is fallen ; the *Medleys* are jumbled together with the *Flying Post* ; the *Examiner* is deadly sick ; the *Spectator* keeps up, and doubles its price ; I know not how long it will hold. Have you seen the red stamp the papers are marked with ? Methinks the stamping is worth a halfpenny. Lord *Bolingbroke* and *Prior* set out for *France* last *Saturday*. My lord's business is to hasten the peace before the *Dutch* are too much mauled ; and to hinder *France* from carrying the jest of beating them too far. Have you seen the fourth part of *John Bull* ? It is equal to the rest, and extremely good. The bishop of *Clogher's* son has been ill of *St. Anthony's* fire, but is now quite well. I was afraid his face would be spoiled, but it is not. *Dilly* is just as he used to be, and puns as plentifully and as bad. *Raymond* wrote to me, that he intended



tended to invite you to *Trim*. Are you, have you, will you be there? If you have not your letters in due time for two months hence, impute it to my being tosted between this and *Windsor*. Poor lord *Winchelsea*\* is dead, to my great grief. He was a worthy honest gentleman, and a particular friend of mine: and, what is yet worse, my old acquaintance, Mrs. *Finch*†, is now countess of *Winchelsea*, the title being fallen to her husband, but without much estate. I have been poring my eyes all this morning, and it is now past two afternoon, so I shall take a little walk in the park. Do you play at ombre still? Or is that off by Mr. *Stoyte*'s absence, and Mrs. *Manley*'s grief? Farewel.

# LETTER LXIX.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

Windsor, Sept. 15, 1712.

I HAVE been much out of order of late, with the old giddiness in my head. I took a

\* ‘Charles, earl of *Winchelsea*, first lord commissioner of trade and plantations. He died *August* 14, 1712.’

† ‘Ann, daughter of Sir *William Kingsmill*, of *Sidmonton*, in *Hampshire*, wife of *Heneage Finch*, earl of *Winchelsea*. She was author of *The Spleen*, and other poems. She died *August* 5, 1720.’



vomit for it two days ago, and will take another about a day or two hence. I have eat mighty little fruit; yet I impute my disorder to that little, and shall henceforth wholly forbear it. I am engaged in a long work, and have done all I can of it, and wait for some papers from the ministry for materials for the rest; and they delay me, as if it were a favour I asked them; so that I have been idle here this good while, and it happened in a right time, when I was too much out of order to study. One is kept constantly out of humour by a thousand unaccountable things in public proceedings; and when I reason with some friends, we cannot conceive how affairs can last as they are. God only knows, but it is a very melancholy subject for those, who have any near concern in it. I am again endeavouring, as I was last year, to keep people from breaking to pieces upon a hundred misunderstandings. One cannot withhold them from drawing different ways, while the enemy is watching to destroy both. See how my stile is altered, by living and thinking, and talking among these people. Instead of my canal and river, walk and willows, I lose all my money



ney here among the ladies ; so that I never play when I can help it, being sure to lose. I have lost five pounds the five weeks I have been here. I hope you are luckier at picquet with the dean and Mrs. *Wall*. I wait here but to see what they will do for me ; and whenever preferments are given from me, I will go over.

18th, I have taken a vomit to-day, and hope I shall be better. I have been very giddy since I wrote what is before, yet not as I used to be ; more frequent, but not so violent. Yesterday we were alarmed with the queen's being ill ; she had an aguish and feverish fit ; and you never saw such countenances as we all had, such dismal melancholy. Her physicians from town were sent for ; but towards night she grew better, to-day she is on her feet, and was up : we are not now in any fear ; it will be at worst but an ague, and we hope even that will not return. Lord treasurer would not come here from *London*, because it would make a noise, if he came before his usual time, which is *Saturday*, and he goes away on *Mondays*. The whigs have lost a great support in the earl of *Godolphin* \*.

\* He died September 15, 1712.



It is a good jest to hear the ministers talk of him now with humanity and pity, because he is dead, and can do them no more hurt. Lady *Orkney*, the late king's mistress, who lives at a fine place five miles from hence (called *Cliffden*) and I, are grown mighty acquaintance. She is the wisest woman I ever saw; and lord treasurer made great use of her advice in the late change of affairs. I hear lord *Marlborough* is growing ill of his *diabetes*; which, if it be true, may soon carry him off; and then the ministry will be something more at ease. The doctor tells me I must go into a course of steel, though I have not the spleen; for that they can never give me, though I have as much provocation to it as any man alive. *Bernage's* regiment is broke; but he is upon half-pay. I have not seen him this long time; but I suppose he is over-run with melancholy. My lord *Shrewsbury* is certainly designed to be governor of *Ireland*; and, I believe, the duchess will please the people there mightily. I hear there are five or six people putting strongly in for my livings, God help them. But if ever the court should give me any thing, I would recommend *Raymond* to the duke  
of



of *Ormond*; not for any particular friendship to him, but because it would be proper for the minister of *Trim* to have *Laracor*. You may keep the gold studded snuff-box now; for my brother \* *Hill*, governor of *Dunkirk*, has sent me the finest that ever you saw. It is allowed at court, that none in *England* comes near it, though it did not cost above twenty pounds †. And the duchess of *Hamilton* has made me a pocket for it, like a woman's, with a belt and buckle, (for I wear no waistcoat in summer) and there are several divisions, and one on purpose for my box. We have had most delightful weather this whole week; but illness and vomiting have hindered me from sharing in a great part of it. Lady *Masham* made the queen send to *Kenington* for some of her preserved ginger for me, which I take in the morning, and hope it will do me good. The queen will stay here about a month longer, I suppose;

\* One of the society.

† This is the box, on the bottom of which the goose and snail were painted, that gave occasion to the jest and repartee between *Swift* and lord *Oxford*. See *Swift's* life, and a particular description of the box, in a letter to general *Hill*, dated *August* 12, 1712, printed in the volumes published by Mr. *Deane Swift*.



but lady *Masham* will go in ten days to lie-in at *Kensington*. Poor creature, she fell down in the court here the other day. She would needs walk across it upon some displeasure with her chairmen, and was like to be spoiled, so near her time; but we hope all is over for a black eye and a sore side; though I shall not be at ease till she is brought to-bed. I find I can fill up a letter, some way or other, without a journal. If I had not a spirit naturally chearful\*, I should be very much discontented at a thousand things. Pray God preserve your health, and that I may live free from the envy and discontent, that attends those, who are thought to have more favour at court than they really possess. Farewel.

### L E T T E R LXX.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, Oct. 9, 1712.

I HAVE left *Windsor* these ten days, and am deep in pills, with *assa fœtida*, and a steel bitter drink; and I find my head

\* His life is a mournful and striking instance of the power of disappointment, totally to subvert natural chearfulness, to take away the value of every good, and aggravate real by imaginary evil.

much



much better than it was. I was very much discouraged; for I used to be ill for three or four days together, ready to totter as I walked. I take eight pills a day, and have taken, I believe, one hundred and fifty already. The queen, lord treasurer, lady *Masham*, and I, were all ill together, but are now all better; only lady *Masham* expects every day to lie-in at *Kensington*. There was never such a lump of lies spread about the town together as now. I doubt not but you will have them in *Dublin* before this comes to you, and all without the least ground of truth. I have been mightily put back in something I am writing by my illness, but hope to fetch it up, so as to be ready when the parliament meets. Lord treasurer has had an ugly fit of the rheumatism, but is now near quite well. I was playing at *one and thirty* with him, and his family, the other night. He gave us all twelve pence a-piece to begin with. It put me in mind of Sir *William Temple* \*. I asked both him and lady *Masham* seriously,

\* Sir *William* treated *Swift* with so little liberality, after encouraging him to hope he would provide for him, that it was like giving him a shilling to begin the world with.



whether the queen were at all inclined to a dropfy? And they positively assured me she was not: so did her physician *Arbutnot*, who always attends her. Yet these devils have spread that she has holes in her legs, and runs at her navel, and I know not what. *Arbutnot* has sent me from *Windsor* a pretty discourse upon lying, and I have ordered the printer to come for it. It is a proposal for publishing a curious piece, called, *The Art of Political Lying*, in two volumes, &c. And then there is an abstract of the first volume, just like those pamphlets called *The Works of the Learned*. Pray get it when it comes out \*. The queen has a little of the gout in one of her hands. I believe she will stay a month still at *Windsor*. Lord treasurer shewed me the kindest letter from her in the world, by which I picked out one secret, that there will be soon made some knights of the garter. You know another is fallen by lord *Godolphin's* death: he will be buried in a day or two at *Westminster-Abbey*. I saw *Tom Leigh* in town once. The bishop of *Clogher* has taken his

\* This is published among the Dean's works, and is part of the Miscellany, which he printed in conjunction with Mr. *Pope*.



lodging for the winter; they are all well. I hear there are in town abundance of people from *Ireland*; half a dozen bishops at least. The poor old bishop of *London*\*, at past fourscore, fell down backwards going up stairs, and I hear broke or cracked his skull; yet is now recovering. The town is as empty as at *Midsummer*; and if I had not occasion for physic, I would be at *Windsor* still. Did I tell you of lord *Rivers's* † will; he has left a legacy to about twenty paultry old whores by name, and not a farthing to any friend, dependent or relation: he has left from his only child, lady *Barrymore*, her mother's estate, and given the whole to his heir male, a popish priest, a second cousin, who is now earl *Rivers*, and whom he used in his life like a footman. After him it goes to his chief wench and bastard ‡. Lord treasurer

\* 'Dr. *Henry Compton*, translated to that see from the bishopric of *Oxford*, in 1675.'

† 'Richard *Savage*, earl of *Rivers*, who died 18th Aug. 1712.'

‡ Among other natural children of this nobleman was *Richard Savage*, a man celebrated for his genius and misfortunes. His mother was *Anne* countess of *Macclesfield*, to whom *Savage* addressed a poem called, *The Bastard*, and who afterwards married colonel *Bret*. Lord *Rivers* having committed the child to her care, she placed him with a poor woman in an obscure village; and when he enquired after him on his death-bed, that he might provide



and lord chamberlain are executors of this hopeful will. I loved the man, and detest his memory. We hear nothing of peace yet : I believe verily the *Dutch* are so wilful, because they are told the queen cannot live. I believe I escaped the fever, because I am not well ; some physicians here talk very melancholy, and think it foreruns the plague, which is actually at *Hamburg*. I think we both have the faculty never to part with a disorder for ever ; we are very constant. I have had my giddiness twenty-three years by fits.

*October* 11th, Lord treasurer sent for me yesterday and the day before to sit with him, because he is not yet quite well enough to go abroad ; and I could not finish my letter. How the deuce come I to be so exact in your money ? Just seventeen shillings and eight-pence more than due ; I believe you cheat me. *Ppt.* \* makes a petition with

provide for him among other natural children, she told him he was dead ; and by this diabolical and unprovoked cruelty, she deprived her son of a legacy of six thousand pounds, which his father had bequeathed to him in his will, and which, not suspecting that there could exist in a human form a mother, that would ruin her son without enriching herself, he bestowed upon some other person. See the *Life of Savage*, by *Johnson*.

\* *Ppt.* is Mrs. *Johnson*. Mrs. *Dingley*, the lady to whom this letter is addressed, though a relation of Sir  
*William*



many apologies. *John Danvers*, you know, is lady *Giffard's* friend. I tell you what, as things are at present, I cannot possibly speak to lord treasurer for any body. I need tell you no more. Something or nothing will be done in my own affairs; if the former, I will be a solicitor for your sister; if the latter, I have done with courts for ever. Opportunities will often fall in my way, if I am used well, and I will then make it my business. It is my delight to do good offices for people who want and deserve it, and a tenfold delight to do it to a relation of *Ppt.* whose affairs *Ppt.* has so at heart. I have taken down his name and his case (not her case,) and whenever a proper time comes, I will do all I can: that is enough to say, when I can do no more; and I beg your pardon a thousand times, that I cannot do better. I hope the dean of *St. Patrick's* \* is well of his fever; he has never wrote to me: I am glad of it; pray don't desire him to write. I have dated your bill late, because it must

*William Temple's*, had no more than an annuity of 27*l.* for a subsistence; this the Dean used to receive for her; and it was known by an accident, after his memory failed, that he allowed her an annuity of fifty.

\* 'Dr. Sterne,'

not



not commence till the first of *November* next. Are you good housewives and readers? Are you walkers? I know you are gamesters. Are you drinkers? Are you — hold, I must go no farther, for fear of abusing fine ladies. *Parvisol* has not sent me one word how he set this year's tythes. Pray, ask whether tythes set well or ill this year. Bishop of *Killaloe* \* tells me wool bears a good rate in *Ireland*; but how is corn? I dined yesterday with lady *Orkney*, and we sat alone from two till eleven at night. You have heard of her, I suppose. I have twenty letters upon my hands, and am so lazy and so busy, I cannot answer them, and they grow upon me for several months. Have I any apples at *Laracor*? It is strange every year should blast them, when I took so much care for shelter. Lord *Bolingbroke* has been idle at his country house this fortnight, which puts me backwards in business I have. I am got into an ordinary room two pair of stairs, and see nobody, if I can help it; yet some puppies have found me out, and my man is not such an artist as *Patrick* at denying me. *Patrick* has been soliciting to come to me again, but in vain.

\* Dr. *William Lloyd*, who died in *December*, 1716.



The printer has been here with some of the new whims printed, and has taken up my time. I am just going out, and can only bid you farewell.

L E T T E R LXXI.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. J O H N S O N.

London, Oct. 28, 1712.

I HAVE been in phyfic this month, and have been better these three weeks. I stop my phyfic, by the doctor's orders, till he sends me farther directions. *D. D.*\* grows politician, and longs to hear the peace is proclaimed. I hope we shall have it soon, for the *Dutch* are fully humbled; and *Prior* is just come over from *France* for a few days; I suppose upon some important affair. I saw him last night, but had no private talk with him. Stocks rise upon his coming. As for my stay in *England*, it cannot be long now, and so tell my friends. The parliament will not meet till after *Christmas*, and by that time the work I am doing will be over, and then nothing shall keep me. I am very much discontented at *Parvisol*, about neglecting to sell my horses, &c.

\* Perhaps Mrs. Dingley.

Lady



Lady *Masbam* is not yet brought to-bed; but we expect it daily. I dined with her to-day. Lord *Bolingbroke* returned about two months ago, and *Prior* about a week; and goes back (*Prior* I mean) in a few days. Who told you of my snuff-box and pocket? Did I? I had a letter to-day from Dr. *Coghill*, desiring me to get *Rapho* for dean *Sterne*, and the deanry for myself. I shall indeed, I have such obligations to *Sterne*. But, however, if I am asked who will make a good bishop, I shall name him before any body. Then comes another letter, desiring I would recommend a provost, supposing that *Pratt* \* (who has been here about a week) will certainly be promoted; but I believe he will not. I presented *Pratt* to lord treasurer, and truly young *Molyneux* † would have had me present him too; but I directly answered him I would not, unless he had business with him. He is the son of one Mr. *Molyneux*, of *Ireland*.

\* 'Dr. Benjamin Pratt, provost of Trinity-College at Dublin.'

† 'Samuel, son of William Molyneux, Esq; the friend and correspondent of Mr. Locke. Mr. Samuel Molyneux was afterwards secretary to the late king George II. when prince of Wales. He married lady Elizabeth Capell, daughter of Algernon earl of Essex. He died in April, 1728.'



His father wrote a book ‡; I suppose you know it. Here is the duke of *Marlborough* going out of *England* (Lord knows why) which causes many speculations. Some say he is conscious of guilt, and dare not stand it. Others think he has a mind to fling an odium on the government, as who should say, that one, who has done such great services to his country, cannot live quietly in it, by reason of the malice of his enemies. I have helped to patch up these people together once more. God knows how long it may last. I was to-day at a trial between lord *Lansdown* and lord *Carteret*, two friends of mine. It was in the *Queen's-Bench*, for about six thousand pounds a year (or nine, I think). I sat under lord chief justice *Parker*, and his pen falling down, I reached it up. He made me a low bow; and I was going to whisper him, that *I had done good for evil; for he would have taken mine from me.* I told it lord treasurer and *Bolingbroke*. *Parker* would not have known me, if several lords on the bench, and in the court, bowing, had not turned every body's eyes, and set them a whispering. I

‡ 'The case of Ireland's being bound by acts of parliament in England stated, published in 1698, in octavo.'



owe the dog a spite, and will pay him in two months at farthest, if I can. So much for that. But you must have chat, and I must say every sorry thing that comes into my head. They say the queen will stay a month longer at *Windsor*. These devils of *Grubstreet* rogues, that write the *Flying-Post* and *Medley* in one paper, will not be quiet. They are always mauling lord treasurer, lord *Bolingbroke*, and me. We have the dog under prosecution, but *Bolingbroke* is not active enough; but I hope to swinge him. He is a *Scotch* rogue, one *Ridpath*. They get out upon bail, and write on. We take them again, and get fresh bail; and so it goes round. They say some learned *Dutchman* has wrote a book, proving, by civil law, that we do them wrong by this peace; but I shall shew, by plain reason, that we have suffered the wrong, and not they. I toil like a horse, and have hundreds of letters still to read; and squeeze a line perhaps out of each, or at least the seeds of a line. *Strafford* goes back to *Holland* in a day or two, and I hope our peace is very near. I have about thirty pages more to write (this is to be extracted) which will be sixty in print. It is the most troublesome



some part of all, and I cannot keep myself private, tho' I stole into a room up two pair of stairs, when I came from *Windsor*; but my present man has not yet learned his lesson of denying me discreetly.

30th, The duchess of *Ormond* found me out to-day, and made me dine with her. Lady *Masham* is still expecting. She has had a cruel cold. I could not finish my letter last post for the soul of me. Lord *Bolingbroke* has had my papers these six weeks, and done nothing to them. Is *Tisdall* yet in the world? I propose writing controversies, to get a name with posterity. The duke of *Ormond* will not be over these three or four days. I design to make him join with me in settling all right among our people. I have ordered the duchess to let me have an hour with the duke at his first coming, to give him a true state of persons and things. I believe the duke of *Shrewsbury* will hardly be declared your governor yet; at least, I think so now: but resolutions alter very often. Duke *Hamilton* gave me a pound of snuff to-day, admirable good. I wish *D. D.* had it, and *Ppt.* too, if she likes it. It cost me a quarter of an hour of his politics, which I was forced



to hear. Lady *Orkney* is making me a writing-table of her own contrivance, and a bed night-gown. She is perfectly kind, like a mother. I think the d—— was in it the other day, that I should talk to her of an ugly squinting cousin of hers, and the poor lady herself, you know, squints like a dragon. The other day we had a long discourse with her about love; and she told us a saying of her sister *Fitzbarding*, which I thought excellent, that *in men, desire begets love, and in women, love begets desire*. We have abundance of our old criers still hereabouts. I hear every morning your women with the old fatten and taffata, &c. the fellow with old coats, suits or cloaks. Our weather is abominable of late. We have not two tolerable days in twenty. I have lost money again at ombre, with lord *Orkney* and others; yet, after all, this year I have lost but three and twenty shillings; so that, considering card-money, I am no loser.

Our society hath not yet renewed their meetings. I hope we shall continue to do some good this winter; and lord treasurer promises the academy for reforming our language shall soon go forward. I must now go hunt those dry letters for materials. You  
will



will see something very notable, I hope. So much for that. God Almighty bless you.

L E T T E R LXXII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, Nov. 15, 1712.

**B**EFORE this comes to your hands, you will have heard of the most terrible accident that hath almost ever happened. This morning, at eight, my man brought me word, that duke *Hamilton* had fought with lord *Mobun*, and killed him, and was brought home wounded. I immediately sent him to the duke's house, in *St. James's-square*; but the porter could hardly answer for tears, and a great rabble was about the house. In short, they fought at seven this morning. The dog *Mobun* was killed on the spot; but, while the duke was over him, *Mobun* shortened his sword, stabbed him in at the shoulder to the heart. The duke was helped towards the cake-house, by the ring, in *Hyde-park* (where they fought) and died on the grass, before he could reach the house; and was brought home in his coach by eight, while the



poor duchess was asleep. *Maccartney* and one *Hamilton* were the seconds, who fought likewise, and are both fled. I am told, that a footman of lord *Mobun's* stabbed duke *Hamilton*; and some say *Maccartney* did so too. *Mobun* gave the affront, and yet sent the challenge. I am infinitely concerned for the poor duke, who was a frank, honest, good-natured man. I loved him very well, and I think he loved me better. He had the greatest mind in the world to have me go with him to *France*, but durst not tell it me; and those he did tell, said I could not be spared, which was true. They have removed the poor duchess to a lodging in the neighbourhood, where I have been with her two hours, and am just come away. I never saw so melancholy a scene; for indeed all reasons for real grief belong to her; nor is it possible for any one to be a greater loser in all regards. She has moved my very soul. The lodging was inconvenient, and they would have removed her to another; but I would not suffer it, because it had no room backwards, and she must have been tortured with the noise of the *Grubstreet* screamers



screamers ringing her husband's murder in her ears.

I believe you have heard the story of my escape, in opening the band-box sent to the lord treasurer. The prints have told a thousand lies of it; but at last we gave them a true account of it at length, printed in the *Evening-post*; only I would not suffer them to name me, having been so often named before, and teased to death with questions. I wonder how I came to have so much presence of mind, which is not usually my talent; but so it pleased God, and I saved myself and him; for there was a bullet-piece. A gentleman told me, that if I had been killed, the whigs would have called it a judgment, because the barrels were of inkhorns, with which I had done them so much mischief. There was a pure *Grubstreet* of it, full of lies and inconsistencies. I do not like these things at all, and I wish myself more and more among my willows. There is a devilish spirit among people, and the ministry must exert themselves, or sink.

16th, I thought to have finished this yesterday; but was too much disturbed. I sent a letter early this morning to lady

R 3

Masham,



*Masbam*, to beg her to write some comforting words to the poor duchess. I dined to-day with lady *Masbam* at *Kensington*, where she is expecting these two months to lie-in. She has promised me to get the queen to write to the duchess kindly on this occasion; and to-morrow I will beg lord treasurer to visit and comfort her. I have been with her two hours again, and find her worse. Her violences not so frequent, but her melancholy more formal and settled. She has abundance of wit and spirit; about thirty-three years old; handsome and airy, and seldom spared any body that gave her the least provocation; by which she had many enemies, and few friends. Lady *Orkney*, her sister-in-law, is come to town on this occasion; and has been to see her, and behaved herself with great humanity. They have been always very ill together, and the poor duchess could not have patience, when people told her I went often to lady *Orkney*'s. But I am resolved to make them friends; for the duchess is now no more the object of envy, and must learn humility from the severest master, *affliction*. I design to make the ministry put out a proclamation (if it can be found



found proper) against that villain *Mac-cartney*. What shall we do with these murderers? I cannot end this letter to-night, and there is no occasion; for I cannot send it till *Tuesday*, and the coroner's inquest on the duke's body is to be to-morrow. Then I shall know more. This is a very surprising event. 'Tis late, and I'll go to bed. This looks like journals.

17th, I was to-day at noon with the duchess of *Hamilton* again, after I had been with lady *Orkney*, and charged her to be kind to her sister in her affliction. The duchess told me lady *Orkney* had been with her, and that she did not treat her as gently as she ought. They hate one another; but I will try to patch it up. I have been drawing up a paragraph for the *Postboy*, to be out to-morrow, and as malicious as possible, and very proper for *Abel Roper*, the printer of it. I dined at lord treasurer's at six in the evening, which is his usual hour of returning from *Windsor*: he promises to visit the duchess to-morrow, and says he has a message to her from the queen. 'Tis late; I have stayed till past one with him.



18th, The committee of council is to sit this afternoon upon the affair of the duke of *Hamilton's* murder, and I hope a proclamation will be out against *Maccartney*. I was just now ('tis now noon) with the duchess, to let her know lord treasurer will see her. She is mightily out of order. The jury have not yet brought in their verdict upon the coroner's inquest. We suspect *Maccartney* stabbed the duke while he was fighting. The queen and lord treasurer are in great concern at this event. I dine to-day again with lord treasurer; but must send this to the post-office before, because else I shall not have time; he usually keeps me too late. *Ben Tooke* bid me write to *D. D.* \* to send her certificate, for it is high time it should be sent, he says. Pray make *Parvisol* write to me, and send me a general account of my affairs; and let him know I shall be over in spring, and that by all means he sells the horses. *Prior* has kissed the queen's hand, and will return to *France* in a few days, and lord *Strafford* to *Holland*. Now the king of *Spain* has renounced his pre-

\* 'Mrs. Dingley.'



tensions to *France*, the peace must follow  
 very soon unavoidably. You must no more  
 call *Philip* duke of *Anjou*, for we now ac-  
 knowledge him king of *Spain*. Dr. *Pratt*  
 tells me, you are all mad in *Ireland* with  
 your playhouse frolics and prologues, and  
 I know not what. Mr. *Verdoen* was with  
 me yesterday, and enquired after you. He  
 was a lieutenant, and is now broke, and  
 upon half-pay. He asked me nothing for  
 himself; but wanted an employment for a  
 friend, *who wou'd give a handsome pair of*  
*gloves*. One *Hales* sent me up a letter the  
 other day, which said you lodged in his  
 house, and therefore desired I would get  
 him a civil employment. I would not be  
 within, and have directed my man to give  
 him an answer, that I never open letters  
 brought me by the writers, &c. I was  
 complaining to a lady, that I wanted to  
 mend an employment from forty to sixty  
 pounds a year in the salt-office, and thought  
 it hard I could not do it. She told me,  
 Mr. *Griffin* should do it. And afterwards  
 I met *Griffin* at her lodgings; and he was,  
 as I found, one I had been acquainted with.  
 I named *Filly* to him, and his abode some-  
 where near *Nantwich*. He said frankly, he  
 had



had formerly examined the man, and found he understood very little of his business; but if he heard he mended, he would do what I desired. I will let it rest a while, and then resume it; and if *Ppt.* writes to *Filly*, she may advise him to diligence, &c. I told *Griffin* positively I would have it done, if the man mended. This is an account of *Ppt.*'s commission to her most humble servant. I have a world of writing to finish, and little time; these toads of ministers are so *slow in their helps*.

### L E T T E R LXXIII.

Countess of O R K N E Y to Dr.  
S W I F T.

London, Nov. 21, 1712.

**T**HIS key will open treasures; but vain in me to know them \*. Your conveniency is my satisfaction. If I can or may read what will be in this table, it ought and shall be my happiness. You must discern this comes from the most interested joiner that ever made a thing of this nature. Pe-

\* This letter was accompanied with a present of a writing-table, seal, paper, wax, &c.



ruse narrowly, and what faults you find, they shall be mended, in every particular, to the utmost capacity of, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

E. O R K N E Y.

L E T T E R LXXIV.

Countess of O R K N E Y to Dr.  
S W I F T.

Nov. 22, 1712.

**Y**O U are extremely obliging to write how well you take my whim, in telling my true thoughts of your mind: for I was ashamed, when I reflected, and hoped I should see you soon, after expressing the value I have of you in an uncommon way. But this I write with assurance, that I am very sincerely, Sir, your obliged humble servant,

E. O R K N E Y.

L E T-



## LETTER LXXV.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, Dec. 12, 1712.

**I** Protest solemnly I am not able to write to you for other business, but I will renew my journal method to you next time. I find it is easier, tho' it contains nothing but where I dine, and the occurrences of the day. I will write now but once in three weeks, till this business is off my hands, which must be in six, I think, at farthest. Oh! I remember your reprimanding me for meddling in other people's affairs: I have enough of it now with a worrier. Two women have been here six times a-piece; I never saw them yet. The first I have dispatched with a letter; the other I must see, and tell her I can do nothing for her: she is wife of one Mr. Connor, an old college acquaintance, and comes on a foolish errand, for some old pretensions, that will succeed, when I am lord treasurer. I am got up two pair of stairs in a private lodging, and have ordered all my friends not to discover where I am; yet every morning two or three sets are plaguing me,  
and



and my present servant has not yet his lesson perfect of denying me. I have written one hundred and thirty pages in folio to be printed, and must write thirty more, which will make a large book of four shillings \*. I wish I had an opportunity of sending you some snuff. I will watch who goes to *Ireland*, and do it if possible. I had a letter from *Parvisol*, and find he has set my livings very low. Colonel *Hamilton*, who was second to duke *Hamilton*, is tried to day. I suppose he is come off, but have not heard. I dined with lord treasurer, but left him by nine, and visited some people. Lady *Betty*, his daughter, will be married on *Monday* next (as I suppose) to the marquis of *Caermarthen*. I did not know your country place had been *Portrain*, till you told me so in your last. Has *Swanton* taken it of *Wallis*? That *Wallis* was a grave, wise coxcomb. God be thanked that *Ppt.* is better of her disorders. God keep her so. The pamphlet of political lying is written by Dr. *Arbutnot*, the author of *John Bull*; 'tis very pretty, but not so obvious to be understood. Hig-

\* ' This seems to be his *History of the Peace of Utrecht*, not published till after his death.'



gins, first chaplain to duke *Hamilton*? Why, duke *Hamilton* never dreamed of a chaplain, nor I believe ever heard of *Higgins*. You are glorious newsmongers in *Ireland*; dean *Francis*, Sir *Richard Levinge*, stuff, stuff, and *Pratt*, more stuff. We have lost our fine frost here; and *Abel Roper* tells me you have had floods in *Dublin*. So, you read one of the *Grubstreets* about the bandbox. The whig papers have abused me about the bandbox. God help me, what could I do? I fairly ventured my life. There is a particular account of it in the *Post Boy*, and *Evening Post* of that day. Lord treasurer has had the seal sent him, that sealed the box, and directions where to find the other pistol in a tree in *St. James's Park*, which lord *Bolingbroke's* messengers found accordingly; but who sent the present is not yet known. Duke *Hamilton* avoided the quarrel as much as possible, according to the foppish rules of honour in practice. What signified your writing angry to *Filly*? I hope you said nothing of having any thing from me. The queen is in town, and lady *Masham's* month of lying-in is within two days of being out. I was at the christening on *Monday*. I could not  
get



get the child named *Robin*, after lord treasurer; it is *Samuel*, after the father. My brother *Ormond* sent me some chocolate to-day. I wish you had share of it: they say it is good for me, and I design to drink some in the morning. Our society meets next *Thursday*, now the queen is in town; and lord treasurer assures me, that the society for reforming the language shall soon be established. I have given away ten shillings this day to servants. What a stir about company? I kept no company at all, nor have I any desire to keep any. I never go to a coffee-house nor a tavern, nor have touched a card since I left *Windsor*. I make few visits, nor go to levees; my only debauching is sitting late where I dine, if I like the company. I have almost dropped the duchesses of *Shrewsbury* and *Hamilton*, and several others. Lord treasurer, the duke of *Ormond*, and lady *Orkney*, are all that I see very often. O yes, lady *Masbam* and lord *Bolingbroke*, and one or two private friends. I make no figure but at court, where I affect to turn from a lord to the meanest of my acquaintance, and I love to go there on *Sundays* to see the world; but, to say the truth, I am growing weary of it.

I dislike



I dislike a million of things in the course of public affairs ; and if I were to stay here much longer, I am sure I should ruin myself with endeavouring to mend them. I am every day invited into schemes of doing this, but I cannot find any, that will probably succeed. It is impossible to save people against their own will ; and I have been too much engaged in patch-work already. Do you understand all this stuff ? No. Well, then, you are now returned to *Ombre* and the dean, and *Christmas* ; I wish you a very good merry one. It is late, I'll go to sleep ; I don't sleep well, and therefore never dare to drink coffee or tea after dinner.

13th, Morning. I am so very sleepy in the mornings, that my man wakens me above ten times ; and now I can tell you no news of this day. Here is a restless dog, crying cabbages and favoys, plagues me every morning about this time ; he is now at it. I wish his largest cabbage were sticking in his throat. I lodge over against the house in *Little Rider-street*, where *D.* lodged. To-night I must see the Abbé *Gautier*, to get some particulars for my history.



history \*. It was he, who was first employed by *France* in the overtures of peace, and I have not had time this month to see him; he is but a puppy too. Lady *Orkney* has just sent to invite me to dinner; she has not yet given me the bed night-gown; besides, I am come very much off from writing in bed, though I am doing it this minute; but I stay till my fire is burned up. Lord *Abercorn* is come to *London*, and will plague me, and I can do him no service. The duke of *Shrewsbury* goes in a day or two for *France*, perhaps to-day. We shall have a peace very soon; the *Dutch* are almost entirely agreed, and if they stop, we shall make it without them. That has been resolved. This is a fine day. I am ruined with coaches and chairs this twelve-penny weather. I must see my brother *Ormond* at eleven, and then the duchess of *Hamilton*, with whom I doubt I am in disgrace, not having seen her these ten days. Abbé *Gautier* sends me word I cannot see him to-night. I don't value any thing but one letter he has of *P.*'s shewing the roguery of the *Dutch*. Did not the *Conduct of the allies* make you great politicians? Here is

\* ' Probably that of the peace of *Utrecht*.'



somebody coming, that I must see, that wants a little place ; the son of cousin *Rooke's* eldest daughter, that died many years ago. Farewel.

L E T T E R LXXVI.

THOMAS HARRISON, Esq; \*  
to Dr. SWIFT.

Utrecht, Dec. 16, 1712.

YOUR thanks of the 25th of *November*, Sir, came before their time ; the condition

\* ‘ This gentleman, who owed his post of secretary to the *British* embassy at *Utrecht* to the recommendation of Dr. *Swift*, and was eminent for his genius and learning, was educated at *Queen's College*, in *Oxford*, where he took the degree of master of arts, *December 15, 1705*. Mr. *Tickell*, who was of the same college, in his poem to his excellency the lord privy seal, on the prospect of peace, pays a compliment to his friend Mr. *Harrison*, in these lines :

“ That much lov'd youth, whom *Utrecht's* walls confine,  
“ To *Bristol's* praises shall his *Strafford's* join.”

The reader will find some circumstances relating to him and his last sickness in Dr. *Swift's* letter, or journal, written to Mrs. *Dingley*, beginning *January 25, 1712-13*, by which it appears, that Mr. *Harrison* coming over to *England* from *Utrecht* with the barrier treaty, died on *February 14, 1712-13*. Mr. *Jacob*, in his *lives and characters of all the English poets*, Vol. I. p. 70, has committed two mistakes, in calling him *William* instead of *Thomas*, and in saying, that he died in *Holland* in 1713. He mentions among Mr. *Harrison's* works, *Woodstock Park*, inscribed to the lord chancellor *Cowper*.’

of



of the obligation being, that you should receive twelve shirts, which number shall be compleated by the first proper occasion. Your kind letter, however, is extremely seasonable; and (next to a note from the treasury) has proved the most vivifying cordial in the world. If you please to send me now and then as much of the same, as will lie upon the top of your pen, I should be contented to take sheets for shirts to the end of the chapter.

Since you are so good as to enter into my affairs, I shall trouble you with a detail of them, as well as of my conduct since I left *England*; which, in my opinion, you have a right to inspect, and approve or condemn, as you think fit. During my state of probation with the earl of *Strafford*, it was my endeavour to recommend myself to his excellency by fidelity, silence, and an entire submission, more than by an affectation to shine in his service: And whatever difficulties, whatever discouragements fell in my way, I think it appears, that they were surmounted in the end; and my advancement followed upon it sooner than I expected; another would say, much sooner than I deserved, which I



should easily agree to, were it not, that I flatter myself there is some merit in the behaviour I kept, when the hopes and temptation of being preferred glittered in my eyes. All the world knows upon what footing Mr. *Watkins* \* thought himself with my lord *Strafford* †; and though all the world does not know what I am going to tell you, yet Mr. *Watkins* does on one hand, and my S—— on the other, that all the credit I had with either, was heartily, and without reserve, employed to make matters easy; and to cultivate in my humble station that good understanding, which our court desired should be between them. I had my reasons for this, and such perhaps as flowed from an inclination to promote my own interest. I knew as well as any man living almost, how much Mr. *Watkins* was valued by my lord *Bolingbroke* and others. I foresaw the danger of standing in competition with him, if that case should happen: and, to tell you the truth, I did not think myself ripe in regard to interest at home, or of any service I could

\* *Henry Watkins*, esq; late secretary.

† *Thomas*, earl of *Strafford*, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the states general.

pretend



pretend to have done abroad, to succeed Mr. *Watkins* in so good an employment. Above all, I protest to you, Sir, that if I know my own heart, I am capable of suffering the utmost extremities rather than violate the infinite duty and gratitude I owe my lord *Bolingbroke*, by doing an ill office to a person honoured with such particular marks of his lordship's esteem. I might add to this, that I really loved Mr. *Watkins*; and I beg you, Sir, to urge him to the proof, whether, my whole behaviour was not such, as might justify the warmest professions I can make of that kind. After all this, how comes it, that he, either in raillery or good earnest, accuses me of having any resentment against him? By word of mouth when he left us, by letters, so long as he allowed me to correspond with him, and by all the people that ever went from *Utrecht* to *Flanders*, have I importuned him for the continuance of his friendship; and, perhaps, even in his absence (if he pleases to reflect) given him a very essential proof of mine. If any body has thought it worth their while to sow a division between us, I wish he thought it worth his to let me into the secret; and



nothing, he may be sure, shall be wanting on my side to defeat a stratagem, which, for ought I know, may end in the starving of his humble servant.

Which leads me naturally to the second thing proposed to be spoken to in my text; namely, my circumstances. For between you and me, Sir, I apprehend the treasury will issue out no money on my account, till they know what is due on that of Mr. *Watkins*. And if he has any pretensions, I have none, that I know of, but what are as precarious to me, as a stiver I gave away but now to a beggar, was to him. Is it possible, that Mr. *Watkins* can demand the pay of a commission, which is by the queen herself actually superseded, during his absence from his post? Or is it not as plainly said in mine, that I am her majesty's secretary during such his absence, as in his that he was so, whilst he resided here? If I must be crushed, Sir, for God's sake let some reason be alledged for it; or else an ingenuous confession made, that *stat pro ratione voluntas*. If you can fix Mr. *Watkins* to any final determination on this subject, you will do me a singular service, and I shall take my measures accordingly.

Though



Though I know your power, I cannot help distrusting it on this occasion. Before I conclude, give me leave to put you in mind of beating my thanks into lord *Bolingbroke's* ears, for his late generosity, to the end that his lordship may be wearied out of the evil habit he has got of heaping more obligations and goodness on those he is pleased to favour, than their shoulders are able to bear. For my own part, I have so often thanked his lordship, that I have now no more ways left to turn my thoughts; and beg, if you have any right good compliments neat and fine by you, that you will advance the necessary, and place them, with the other helps you have given me, to my account; which I question not, but I shall be able to acknowledge at one and the same time, *viz. ad Græcas calendas.*

In the mean time, I shall do my best to give you just such hints as you desire by the next post. Though I cannot but think there are some letters in the office, which would serve your turn a good deal better than any thing I can tell you about the people at the *Hague*. Your access there abundantly prevents my attempting to write



you any news from hence. And I assure you, Sir, you can write me none from *England* (however uneasy my circumstances are) which will be so agreeable, as that of your long expected advancement. It grieves me to the soul, that a person, who has been so instrumental to the raising of me from obscurity and distress, should not be yet set above the power of fortune, and the malice of those enemies your real merit has created. I beg, dear Sir, the continuance of your kind care and inspection over me ; and that you would in all respects command, reprove, or instruct me, as a father. For I protest to you, Sir, I do, and ever shall honour and regard you with the affection of a son. I am, &c.

## L E T T E R LXXVII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, Dec. 18, 1712.

OUR society was to meet to-day, but lord *Harley*, who was president this week, could not attend, being gone to *Wimbledon* with his new brother-in-law, the young marquis of *Caermarthen*, who married lady *Betty Harley* on *Monday* last ; and lord treasurer



surer is at *Wimbledon* too. However, half a dozen of us met, and I proposed our meetings should be only once a fortnight; for, betwixt you and me, we do no good. It cost me nineteen shillings to-day for my club dinner; I don't like it. We have terrible flobbery weather. Lord *Abercorn* is come to town, and will see me, whether I will or not. You know he has a pretence to a dukedom \* in *France*, which duke *Hamilton* was soliciting for; but *Abercorn* resolves to spoil their title, if they will not allow him a fourth part; and I have advised the duchess to compound with him, and have made the ministry of my opinion.

19th, Lord treasurer is returned from *Wimbledon*. 'Tis not above eight miles off, and he sent for me to dine with him at five; but I had the grace to be abroad, and dined with another, with honest *Ben Tooke*, by invitation. The duchess of *Ormond* promised me her picture, and coming home to-night, I found her's and the duke's, both in my chamber. Was not that a pretty civil surprize? They are in fine gilded frames too. I am writing a letter to thank

\* 'Of *Chastleherauld*.'

her.



her. I will tell her, she is such a prude, that she will not let so much as her picture be alone in a room with a man, unless the duke's be with it ; and so forth. We are full of snow and dabbling. Lady *Masham* has come abroad these three days, and seen the queen. I dined with her the other day at her sister *Hill's*. I hope she will remove in a few days to her new lodgings at St. *James's* from *Kensington*.

20th, I deny myself to every body almost, yet I cannot be quiet ; and all my mornings are lost with people, who will not take answers below stairs ; such as *Dilly*, and the bishop, and the provost, &c. Lady *Orkney* invited me to dinner to-day, which hindered me from dining with lord treasurer. This is his day, that his chief friends in the ministry dine with him. However, I went there about six, and sat with him till past nine, when they all went off ; but he kept me back, and told me the circumstances of lady *Betty's* match. The young fellow has 60,000*l.* ready money, three great houses furnished, 7,000*l.* a year at present, and about five more after his father and mother die. I think



think lady *Betty's* portion is not above 8,000 *l.* Pray tell Mr. *Wall*, that lord *Anglesea* thanked me for recommending *Clements* to him; that he says, he is 20,000 *l.* the better for knowing him. But pray don't let *Clements* go and write a letter of thanks, and tell my lord, that he hears so and so, &c. Sad weather; two shillings in coaches to-day, and yet I am dirty. I am now going to read over something, and correct it.

21st, Puppies have got a new way of plaguing me. I find letters directed for me at lord treasurer's, sometimes with inclosed ones to him, and sometimes with projects, and sometimes with libels. I usually keep them three or four days without opening. I was at court to-day, as I always am on *Sundays*, instead of a coffee-house, to see my acquaintance. This day se'nnight, after I had been talking at court with Sir *William Wyndham*, the *Spanish* ambassador came to him, and said, he heard that was Dr. *Swift*, and desired him to tell me, that his master, and the king of *France*, and the queen, were obliged to me more than to any man in *Europe*; so we bowed and shook hands, &c. I took it very well of him.



him \*. I dined with lord treasurer, and must again to-morrow, though I had rather not; but now the queen is in town, he does not keep me so late. Our peace now will soon be determined; for lord *Bolingbroke* tells me this morning, that four provinces of *Holland* have complied with the queen, and we expect the rest will do so immediately.

22d, Lord keeper promised me yesterday the first convenient living to poor *Gery* †, who is married, and wants some addition to what he has. He is a very worthy creature. I had a letter some weeks ago from *Elnick*, who married *Betty Gery*. It seems the poor woman died some time last summer. *Elnick* grows rich, and purchases lands. I dined with lord treasurer to-day, who has engaged me to come again to-morrow. I gave lord *Bolingbroke* a poem of *Parnell's* ‡. I made *Par-*

\* It may, perhaps, be thought strange, that *Swift* should be gratified, by being told he was the best friend of the enemies of his country.

† ‘ Mr. *Gery*, rector of *Litcombe*, in *Berks*, to whose house Dr. *Swift* retired about ten weeks before queen *Anne's* death, upon occasion of the incurable breach between the earl of *Oxford* and lord viscount *Bolingbroke*.’

‡ ‘ It is not in the collection published by Mr. *Pope* in 1726; but it is printed in Dr. *Parnell's Posthumous Works*,



*nell* insert some compliments in it to his lordship. He is extremely pleased with it, and read some parts of it to-day to lord treasurer, who liked it as much. And indeed he outdoes all our poets here a bar's-length. Lord *Bolingbroke* has ordered me to bring him to dinner on *Christmas-day*, and I made lord treasurer promise to see him. It may one day do *Parnell* a kindness. You know *Parnell*. I believe I have told you of that.

23d, This morning I presented one *Diaper* \*, a poet, to lord *Bolingbroke*, with a new poem †, which is a very good one; and I am to give him a sum of money from my lord. I have contrived to make a parson of him, for he is half one already, being in deacon's orders, and serves a small cure in the country; but has a sword at his tail here in town. 'Tis a poor, little, short wretch, but will do best in a gown, and we will make lord keeper give him a living. Lord *Bolingbroke* writ to lord treasurer to-day, to excuse me; so I dined

*Works*, p. 248, published at *Dublin* in 1758, and intitled, *On Queen Anne's Peace*, 1713.'

\* Author of the *Sea Eclogues* mentioned before.

† 'Intitled, *Dryades, or the Nymphs Prophecy*, printed in 1713, in folio.'

with



with the former and *Monteleon*, the *Spanish* ambaffador, who made me many compliments. I ftaid till nine, and now it is paff ten, and my man has locked me up, and I have juft called to mind, that I fhall be in difgrace with *Tom Leigh*. That coxcomb had got into acquaintance with one *Eckersfall*, clerk of the kitchen to the queen, who was civil to him at *Windfor* on my account; for I had done fome fervice to *Eckersfall*. *Leigh* teazes me to pafs an evening at his lodgings with *Eckersfall*. I put it off feveral times, but was forced at laft to promife I would come to-night; and it never was in my head till I was locked up, and I have called and called, but my man is gone to-bed; fo I will write an excufe to-morrow. I deteft that *Tom Leigh*, and am as formal to him as I can, when I happen to meet him in the park. The rogue frets me, if he knew it. He asked me, why I did not wait on the bi-fhop of *Dromore* \* ? I answered, I had not the honour to be acquainted with him, and would not prefume, &c. He takes me

\* ‘ Dr. *Tobias Pullen*, tranflated to that fee from *Cloyne*, May 7, 1695. He died in 1713, and was fucceeded in May that year, by Dr. *John Sterne*, dean of *St. Patrick’s*, to which deanry Dr. *Swift* was then promoted.’

ferioufly,



seriously, and says, the bishop is no proud man, &c. He tells me of a judge in *Ireland*, that has done ill things. I ask, Why is he not out? Says he, I think the bishops, and you, and I, and the rest of the clergy, should meet and consult about it. I beg his pardon, and say, I cannot be serviceable that way. He answers, Yes, every body may help something. Don't you see how curiously he continues to vex me; for the dog knows, that with half a word I could do more than all of them together. But he only does it from the pride and envy of his own heart, and not out of a humorous design of teasing. He is one of those, that would rather a service should not be done, than done by a private man, and of his own country. You take all this; don't you.

24th, I dined to-day with the chancellor of the exchequer \*, in order to look over some of my papers; but nothing was done.

I have been also mediating between the *Hamilton* family and lord *Abercorn*, to have them compound with him; and I believe they will do it. Lord *Selkirk*, the late duke's brother, is to be in town, in order

\* 'Robert Benson, esq;'



to go to *France*, to make the demands ; and the ministry are of opinion, they will get some satisfaction, and they empowered me to advise the *Hamilton* side to agree with *Abercorn*, who asks a fourth part, and will go to *France* and spoil all, if they don't yield it.

25th, I carried *Parnell* to dine at lord *Bolingbroke's*, and he behaved himself very well ; and lord *Bolingbroke* is mightily pleased with him. I was at *St. James's* chapel by eight this morning ; and church and sacrament were done by ten. The queen has the gout in her hand, and did not come to church to-day ; and I stayed so long in my chamber, that I missed going to court. Did I tell you, that the queen designs to have a drawing-room and company every day ?

26th, I was to wish the duke of *Ormond* a happy *Christmas*, and give half a crown to his porter. It will cost me a dozen half crowns among such fellows. I dined with lord treasurer, who chid me for being absent three days. We hear *Maccartney* is gone over to *Ireland*. Was it not comical for a gentleman to be set upon by highwaymen, and to tell them he  
was



was *Maccartney* \* ? Upon which they brought him to a justice of peace, in hopes of a reward, and the rogues were sent to goal. Was it not great presence of mind ? But may be you heard of this already ; for there was a *Grubstreet* of it. Lord *Bolingbroke* told me I must walk away to-day after dinner, because lord treasurer, and he, and another were to enter upon business ; but I said, it was as fit I should know their business as any body, for I was to justify. So the rest went, and I stayed, and it was so important, I was like to sleep over it. I left them at nine, and it is now twelve.

27th, I dined to-day with general *Hill*, governor of *Dunkirk*. Lady *Masham* and Mrs. *Hill*, his two sisters, were of the company, and there have I been sitting this evening till eleven, looking over others at play ; for I have left off loving play myself. I have a great cold on me, not quite at its height. I have them seldom, and therefore ought to be patient. I met Mr. *Addison* and pastoral *Philips* on the

\* *Maccartney* was lord *Mobun's* second, in the duel between him and duke *Hamilton*, and fled on that occasion. See Letter LXXIII.



*Mall* to-day, and took a turn with them ; but they both looked terribly dry and cold. A curse of party ! And do you know I have taken more pains to recommend the whig wits to the favour and mercy of the ministers, than any other people. *Steele* I have kept in his place. *Congreve* I have got to be used kindly, and secured. *Rowe* I have recommended, and got a promise of a place. *Philips* I should certainly have provided for, if he had not run party-mad, and made me withdraw my recommendations. I set *Addison* so right at first, that he might have been employed, and have partly secured him the place he has \* ; yet I am worse used by that faction than any man. Well, go to cards, and dress the wine and orange.

28th, My cold is so bad, that I could not go to church to-day, nor to court ; but I was engaged to lord *Orkney's*, with the duke of *Ormond*, at dinner ; and ventured, because I could cough and spit there as I pleased. The duke and lord *Arran* left us, and I have been sitting ever since with

\* It was a usual subject of raillery towards him among the ministers, that he never came to them without a whig in his sleeve. See his life prefixed to *Bathurst's* edition.



lord and lady *Orkney* till past eleven; and my cold is worse, and makes me giddy. I hope it is only my cold, and no more; but I'll go to bed, for the fellow has bawled past twelve.

29th, I got out early to-day, and escaped all my duns. I went to see lord *Bolingbroke* about some business, and truly he was gone out too. I dined in the city, upon the broiled leg of a goose and a bit of bacon, with my printer. Did I tell you, that I forbear printing what I have in hand, till the court decides something about me? I will contract no more enemies, at least I will not embitter worse those I have already, till I have got under shelter; and the ministers know my resolution, so that you may be disappointed in seeing this thing as soon as you expected. I hear lord treasurer is out of order. My cold is very bad. Every body has one.

30th, I suppose this will be full by *Saturday*. Duke of *Ormond*, lord *Arran*, and I, dined privately to-day at an old servant's house of his. The council made us part at six. One Mrs. *Ramsay* dined with us; an old lady of about fifty-five, that we are all very fond of. I called this evening at lord



treasurer's, and sat with him two hours. He has been cupped for a cold, and has been very ill. He cannot dine with *Parnell* and me at lord *Bolingbroke's* to-morrow; but says he will see *Parnell* some other time. I hoist up *Parnell* partly to spite the envious *Irish* folks here, particularly *Tom Leigh*. I saw the bishop of *Clogher's* family to-day; Miss is mighty ill of a cold, and coughs incessantly.

31st, To-day *Parnell* and I dined with lord *Bolingbroke*, to correct *Parnell's* poem. I made him shew all the places he disliked; and when *Parnell* has corrected it fully, he shall print it. I went this evening to sit with lord treasurer. He is better, and will be out in a day or two. I sat with him while the young folks went to supper, and then went down, where they were all merry together, having turned lady *Oxford* up to my lord, and I stayed with them till twelve. There was the young couple, lord and lady *Caermathen*, lord and lady *Dupplin*, and lord *Harley* and I; and the old folks were together above. It looked like what I have formerly done so often; stealing together from the old folks, tho' indeed it was not from poor lord  
treas-



treasurer, who is as young a fellow as any of us : but lady *Oxford* is a mere old woman. My cold is still so bad, that I have not the least smelling. I am just got home, and 'tis past twelve ; and I'll go to bed, and settle my head, heavy as lead.

*Jan.* Ist, I forgot to tell you, that yesterday lord *Abercorn* was here, teasing me about his *French* duchy, and suspecting my partiality to the *Hamilton* family, in such a whimsical manner, that Dr. *Pratt*, who was by, thought he was mad. He was no sooner gone, but lord *Orkney* sent to know, whether he might come and sit with me half an hour upon some business. I returned answer, that I would wait on him ; which I did. We discoursed a while, and he left me with lady *Orkney* ; and in came lord *Selkirk*, whom I had never seen before. He is another brother of duke *Hamilton's*, and is going to *France*, by a power from his mother the old duchess, to negotiate their pretensions to this duchy of *Chastleberauld*. He teased me for two hours in spite of my teeth, and held my hand when I offered to stir ; would have had me engage the ministry to favour him against lord *Abercorn*, and to convince



them, that lord *Abercorn* had no pretensions; and desired I would also convince lord *Abercorn* himself so; and concluded, he was sorry I was a greater friend to *Abercorn* than *Hamilton*. I had no patience, and used him with some plainness. Am not I purely handled between a couple of puppies? Ay, says *Pp'*, you must be meddling in other people's affairs. I appeal to the bishop of *Clogher*, whether *Abercorn* did not complain, that I would not let them see me last year, and that he swore he would take no denial from my servant when he came again. The ministers gave me leave to tell the *Hamilton* family, it was their opinion, that they ought to agree with *Abercorn*. Lord *Anglesea* was then by, and told *Abercorn*; upon which he gravely tells me, I was commissioned by the ministers, and ought to perform my commission, &c. But I'll have done with them. I have warned lord treasurer, and lord *Bolingbroke*, to beware of *Selkirk's* teasing; yet *Abercorn* vexes me more. He owes me all the kind receptions he has had from the ministry. I dined to-day at lord treasurer's, with the young folks, and sat with lord treasurer till nine, and then was forced to go to lady  
Ma-



*Masbam's*, and sat there till twelve, talking of affairs, till I am out of humour, as every one must, that knows them inwardly. A thousand things wrong, most of them easy to mend; yet our schemes availing at best but little, and sometimes nothing at all. One evil, which I patched up twice, with the hazard of all the credit I had, is now spread more than ever. But burn politics, and send me from courts and ministers!

2d, I fauntered about this morning, and went with *Dr. Pratt* to a picture auction, where I had like to be drawn in to buy a picture, that I was fond of; but, it seems, was good for nothing. *Pratt* was there to buy some pictures for the bishop of *Clogher*, who resolves to lay out ten pounds to furnish his house with curious pictures. We dined with the bishop, I being by chance disengaged. And this evening I sat with the bishop of *Ossory* \*, who is laid up with the gout. The *French* ambassador, duke *d'Aumont*, came to town to-night; and the rabble conducted him home with shouts. I cannot smell yet, though my cold begins

\* ' *Dr. John Hartstrong*, translated from that see to *Derry*, March 3, 1713-14.'



to break. It continues cruel hard frosty weather.

3d, Lord *Dupplin* and I went with lord and lady *Orkney* this morning at ten to *Wimbleton*, six miles off, to see lord and lady *Caermarthen*. It is much the finest place about this town. Did you never see it? I was once there before, about five years ago. I came back just by night-fall, and felt cruel cold weather. I am just now told, that poor lady *Ashburnham*, the duke of *Ormond's* daughter, died yesterday at her country-house. The poor creature was with child. She was my greatest favourite, and I am in excessive concern for her death. I hardly knew a more valuable person on all accounts. You must have heard me talk of her. I am afraid to see the duke and duchess. She was naturally very healthy, and I fear has been thrown away for want of care. Pray condole with me. 'Tis extremely moving \*. I hate life,

\* From these expressions, and those he uses in the account of the duchess of *Hamilton's* affliction on the death of her husband, *Swift* appears to have had a strong sympathy in the distress of others; which he has generally, even by his advocates, been supposed to want. See his letter to Mrs. *Dingley*, dated Nov. 15, 1712.

when



when I think it exposed to such accidents ; and to see so many thousand wretches burthening the earth, while such as she dies, makes me think God did never intend life for a blessing. Farewel.

# L E T T E R LXXVIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, Jan. 4, 1712-13.

I ENDED my last with the melancholy news of poor lady *Ashburnham's* death. The bishop of *Clogher* and Dr. *Pratt* made me dine with them to-day at lord *Mountjoy's*, pursuant to an engagement, which I had forgot. Lady *Mountjoy* told me, that *Maccartney* was got safe out of our clutches, for she had spoke with one, who had a letter from him from *Holland*. Others say the same thing. As I left lord *Mountjoy's*, I saw the duke *d'Aumont*, the French ambaffador, going from lord *Bolingbroke's*, where he dined, to have a private audience of the queen. I followed, and went up to court, where there was a great crowd. I was talking with the duke of *Argyle*, by the fire-side in the bed-chamber, when the ambaffador came out from  
the



the queen. *Argyle* presented me to him, and lord *Bolingbroke* and we talked together a while. He is a fine gentleman, something like the duke of *Ormond*, and just such an expensive man. After church to-day, I shewed the bishop of *Clogher*, at court, who was who.

5th, Our frost is broke, but it is very cold. Lord treasurer is recovered, and went out this evening to the queen. I dined with lady *Oxford*. Lord treasurer gave me a letter from an unknown hand, relating to Dr. *Brown*, bishop of *Cork*, recommending him to a better bishopric, as a person who opposed lord *Wharton*, and was made a bishop on that account, celebrating him for a great politician, &c. In short, all directly contrary to his character, which I made bold to explain. What dogs there are in the world? I was to see the poor duke and duchess of *Ormond* this morning. The duke was in his public room, with Mr. *Southwell*, and two more gentlemen. When *Southwell* and I were alone with him, he talked something of lord *Ashburnham*, that he was afraid the whigs would get him again. He bore up as well as he could, but something falling  
acci-



accidentally in discourse, the tears were just falling out of his eyes, and I looked off to give him an opportunity (which he took) of wiping them with his handkerchief. I never saw any thing so moving, nor such a mixture of greatness of mind, and tendernefs, and discretion.

6th, Lord *Bolingbroke*, and *Parnell*, and I dined, by invitation, with my friend *Dartineuf*\*, whom you have heard me talk of. Lord *Bolingbroke* likes *Parnell* mightily; and it is pleasant to see, that one, who hardly passed for any thing in *Ireland*, makes his way here with a little friendly forwarding. It is scurvy rainy weather, and I have hardly been abroad to-day, nor know any thing that passes. Lord treasurer is quite recovered, and I hope will take care to keep himself well. The duchess of *Marlborough* is leaving *England*, to go to her duke, and makes presents of rings to several friends, they say worth two hundred pounds a-piece. I am sure she ought to give me one, tho'

\* ' This gentleman, whose name was spelt *Dartigue-nave*, is mentioned, on account of his taste for good eating, by Mr. *Pope*, in his Imitation of the second Epistle of the second book of *Horace*, ver. 87.'

“ When *Oldfield* loves what *Dartineuf* detests.”

the



the duke pretended to think me his greatest enemy, and got people to tell me so, and very mildly to let me know how gladly he would have me softened towards him. I bid a lady of his acquaintance and mine let him know, that I had hindered many a bitter thing against him ; not for his own sake, but because I thought it looked base ; and I desired every thing should be left him, except power.

7th, I dined with lord and lady *Masham* to-day, and this evening played at ombre with Mrs. *Vanhomrigh*, merely for amusement. The ministers have got my papers, and will neither read them, nor give them to me ; and I can hardly do any thing. Very warm flabby weather, but I made a shift to get a walk ; yet I lost half of it, by shaking off lord *Rocheſter* \*, who is a good, civil, ſimple man. The biſhop of *Oſſory* will not be biſhop of *Hereford*, to the great grief of himſelf and his wife. I think it is not certain yet that *Maccartney* is eſcaped. I am plagued with bad authors in

\* ‘ *Henry Hyde*, ſon of *Laurence* earl of *Rocheſter*, younger ſon of the lord chancellor *Clarendon*. This *Henry* ſucceeded to the title of earl of *Clarendon*, March 31, 1723, on the death of *Edward*, the third earl of *Clarendon*.’



verse and prose, who send me their books and poems, the vilest trash I ever saw; but I have given their names to my man, never to let them see me.

8th, You must understand that I am in my geers, and have got a chocolate-pot, a present from Mrs. *Ash* of *Clogher*, and some chocolate from my brother *Ormond*, and I treat folks sometimes. I dined with lord treasurer at five o'clock to-day, and was by while he and lord *Bolingbroke* were at business; for it is fit I should know all that passes now, because, &c. The duke of *Ormond* employed me to speak to lord treasurer to-day about an affair, and I did so; and the duke had spoke himself two hours before, which vexed me, and I will chide the duke about it. I'll tell you a good thing; there is not one of the ministry but what will employ me, as gravely to speak for them to lord treasurer, as if I were their brother, or his; and I do it as gravely, though I know they do it only because they will not make themselves uneasy, or had rather I should be denied than they. I believe our peace will not be finished these two months; for I think we must have a return from *Spain* by a messenger, who



who will not go till *Sunday* next. Lord treasurer has invited me to dine with him again to-morrow. Your commissioner, *Knightley*, is to be there.

9th, Dr. *Pratt* drank chocolate with me this morning, and then we walked. I was yesterday with him to see lady *Betty Butler*, grieving for her sister *Ashburnham*. The jade was in bed in form, and she did so cant, she made me sick. I meet *Tom Leigh* every day in the Park, to preserve his health. He is as ruddy as a rose, and tells me his bishop of *Dromore* recovers very much. That bishop has been very near dying. This day's *Examiner* talks of the play of *What is it like?* and you will think it to be mine, and be bit; for I have no hand in these papers at all. I dined with lord treasurer, and shall again to-morrow, which is his day when all the ministers dine with him. He calls it whipping-day. It is always on *Saturday*, and we do indeed equally railly him about his faults on that day. I was of the original club, when only poor lord *Rivers*, lord keeper, and lord *Bolingbroke* came; but now *Ormond*, *Anglesea*, lord steward, *Dartmouth*, and others intrude, and I scold at it; but now they pretend as  
good



good a title as I; and indeed many *Saturdays* I am not there. The company being too many, I don't love it.

10th, At seven this evening, as we sat after dinner at lord treasurer's, a servant said, lord *Peterborough* was at the door. Lord treasurer and lord *Bolingbroke* went out to meet him, and brought him in. He was just returned from abroad, where he has been above a year. As soon as he saw me, he left the duke of *Ormond* and other lords, and ran and kissed me before he spoke to them\*; but chid me terribly for not writing to him, which I never did this last time he was abroad, not knowing where he was; and he changed places so often, it was impossible a letter should overtake him. He left *England* with a pleurisy, by his coach overturning, that made him spit blood, and was so ill, we expected every post to hear of his death; but he out-rode it, or out-drunk it, or something, and he is come home lustier than ever. He is at least sixty, and has more spirits than any young fellow I know in *England*. He has got the old lord *Oxford's* regiment of horse, and I

\* The Dean had addressed some verses to him in the year 1706. See Vol. VII. 8vo.



believe will have a garter. I love the hang-dog dearly.

11th, The court was crammed to-day, to see the *French* ambassador; but he did not come. Did I never tell you, that I go to court on *Sundays* as to a coffee-house, to see acquaintance, whom I should not otherwise see twice a year? The provost and I dine with *Ned Southwell*, by appointment, in order to settle your kingdom, if my scheme can be followed; but I doubt our ministry will be too tedious. You must certainly have a new parliament; but they would have that a secret yet. Our parliament here will be prorogued for three weeks. Those puppies will not yet come in, tho' they pretend to submit to the queen in every thing; but they would fain try first how our session begins, in hopes to embroil us in the house of lords; and if my advice had been taken, the session should have begun, and we would have trusted the parliament to approve the steps already made towards the peace, and had an address perhaps from them to conclude without the *Dutch*, if they would not agree. Others are of my mind, but it is not reckoned so safe, it seems; yet I doubt whether



ther the peace will be ready so soon as three weeks, but that is a secret.

12th, *Pratt* and I walked into the city to one *Bateman's*, a famous bookseller for old books. There I laid out four pounds like a fool, and we dined at a hedge ale-house, for two shillings and two-pence, like emperors. Let me see, I bought *Plutarch*, two volumes, for thirty shillings, &c. We have no news, and I have nothing more to say to-day, and I can't finish my work. These ministers will not find time to do what I would have them.

13th, I was to have dined to-day with lord keeper; but would not, because that brute Sir *John Walter* was to be one of the company. You may remember he railed at me last summer was twelve months at *Windsor*, and has never begged my pardon, tho' he promised to do it; and lord *Mansel*, who was one of the company, would certainly have set us together by the ears, out of pure roguish mischief. So I dined with lord treasurer, where there was none but lord *Bolingbroke*. I stayed till eight, and then went to lady *Orkney's*, who has been sick, and sat with her till twelve. The parliament was prorogued to-day, as I told



you, for three weeks. Our weather is very bad, and flobbery, and I shall spoil my new hat, or empty my pockets. Lord *Abercorn* plagues me to death. I have now not above six people to provide for, and about as many to do good offices to; and thrice as many that I will do nothing for.

14th, To-day I took the circle of morning visits. I went to the duchess of *Ormond*, and there was she, and lady *Betty*, and lord *Ashburnham* together. That was the first time the mother and daughter saw each other since lady *Ashburnham's* death. They were both in tears, and I chid them for being together, and made lady *Betty* go to her own chamber; then sat a while with the duchess, and went after lady *Betty*, and all was well. There is something of farce in all these mournings, let them be ever so serious. People will pretend to grieve more than they really do, and that takes of from their true grief. I then went to the duchess of *Hamilton*, who never grieved\*, but raged, and stormed, and railed. She is pretty quiet now, but has a diabolical

\* The Dean expresses different sentiments of this lady, in his letter to Mrs. *Dingley*, dated Nov. 15, 1712; but it is probable he had then very little acquaintance with her.

temper.



temper. Lord keeper and his son, and their two ladies, and I, dined to-day with Mr. *Cæsar*, treasurer of the navy, at his house in the city, where he keeps his office. We happened to talk of *Brutus*, and I said something in his praise, when it struck me immediately, that I had made a blunder in doing so; and therefore I recollected myself, and said, Mr. *Cæsar*, I beg your pardon. So we laughed, &c.

15th, I forgot to tell you, that last night I had a present sent me (I found it when I came home in my chamber) of the finest wild fowl I ever saw, with the vilest letter, and from the vilest poet in the world, who sent it me as a bribe to get him an employment. I know not where the scoundrel lived, so I could not send them back; and therefore I gave them away as freely as I got them, and have ordered my man never to let up the poet when he comes. The rogue should have kept the wings at least for his muse. One of his fowls was a large capon pheasant, as fat as a pullet. I ate share of it to-day with a friend. We have now a drawing room every *Wednesday*, *Thursday*, and *Saturday*, at one o'clock. The queen does not come out; but all her mi-



nisters, foreigners, and persons of quality, are at it. I was there to-day; and as lord treasurer came towards me, I avoided him, and he hunted me thrice about the room. I affect never to take notice of him at church or court. He knows it, for I have told him so; and to-night, at lord *Masham's*, he gave an account of it to the company; but my reasons are, that people seeing me speak to him, causes a great deal of teasing. I tell you what comes into my head, that I never knew whether you were whigs or tories, and I value our conversation the more, that it never turned on that subject. I have a fancy that *Ppt.* is a tory, and a rigid one. I don't know why; but methinks she looks like one, and *D.* *D.* a sort of a trimmer. Am I right? I gave the *Examiner* a hint about this prerogation, and to praise the queen for her tenderness to the *Dutch*, in giving them still more time to submit. It fitted the occasions at present.

16th, I was busy to-day at the secretary's office, and stayed till past three. The duke of *Ormond* and I were to dine at lord *Orkney's*. The duke was at the committee, so I thought all was safe. When I  
 went



went there, they had almost dined ; for the duke had sent to excuse himself, which I never knew. I came home at seven, and began a little whim, which just came into my head, and will make a three-penny pamphlet. It shall be finished and out in a week ; and if it succeeds, you shall know what it is ; otherwise not. I cannot send this to-morrow, and will put it off till next *Saturday*, because I have much business. So my journals shall be short, and *Ppt.* must have patience.

17th, This rogue *Parnell* has not yet corrected his poem, and I would fain have it out. I dined to-day with lord treasurer, and his *Saturday's* company, nine of us in all. They went away at seven, and lord treasurer and I sat talking an hour after. After dinner, he was talking to the lords about the speech the queen must make when the parliament meets. He asked me how I would make it ? I was going to be serious, because it was seriously put ; but I turned it to a jest. And because they had been speaking of the duchess of *Marlborough* going to *Flanders* after the duke, I said, the speech should begin thus : My lords and gentlemen, In order to my own



quiet, and that of my subjects, I have thought fit to send the duchess of *Marlborough* abroad, after the duke. This took well, and turned off the discourse. I must tell you, I do not at all like the present situation of affairs, and remember I tell you so. Things must be on another foot, or we are all undone. I hate this driving always to an inch.

18th, We had a mighty full court to-day. *Dilly* was with me at the *French* church, and edified mightily. Duke of *Ormond* and I dined at lord *Orkney's*; but I left them at seven, and came home to my whim. I have made a great progress. My large treatise \* stands stock-still. Some think it too dangerous to publish, and would have me print only what relates to the peace. I cannot tell what I shall do. The bishop of *Dromore* is dying. They thought yesterday he could not live two hours: yet he is still alive, but is utterly past all hopes.

19th, I was this morning to see the duke and duchess of *Ormond*. The duke *d'Aumont* came in while I was with the duke of *Ormond*, and we complimented each

\* 'His *History of the Peace of Utrecht*.'



other like dragons. A poor fellow called at the door where I lodge, with a parcel of oranges for a present for me. I bid my man learn what his name was, and whence it came. He sent word his name was *Bun*, and that I knew him very well. I bid my man tell him I was busy, and he could not speak to me; and not to let him leave his oranges. I know no more of it, but I am sure I never heard the name, and I shall take no such presents from strangers. Perhaps he might be only some beggar, who wanted a little money. Perhaps it might be something worse. Let them keep their poison for their rats. I don't love it.

20th, A committee of our society dined to-day with the chancellor of the exchequer. Our society does not meet now as usual, for which I am blamed; but till lord treasurer will agree to give us money and employments to bestow, I am against it; and he gives us nothing but promises. Bishop of *Dromore* is still alive, and that is all. We expect every day he will die, and then *Tom Leigh* must go back, which is one good thing to the town. I believe *Pratt* will drive at one of these bishoprics.



Our *English* bishopric \* is not yet disposed of. I believe the peace will not be ready by the session.

21st, I was to-day with my printer, to give him a little pamphlet I have written, but not politics. It will be out by *Monday*. If it succeeds, I will tell you of it; otherwise not. We had a prodigious thaw to-day, as bad as rain; yet I walked like a good boy all the way. The bishop of *Dromore* still draws breath, but cannot live two days longer. My large book lies flat. Some people think a great part of it ought not to be now printed. I believe I told you so before. This letter shall not go till *Saturday*, which makes up the three weeks exactly, and I allow six weeks.

22d, This is one of our court days, and I was there. I told you there is a drawing-room *Wednesday*, *Thursday*, and *Saturday*. The *Hamiltons* and *Abercorns* have done teasing me. The latter, I hear, is actually going to *France*. Lord treasurer quarrelled with me at court, for being four days with-

\* ' Probably that of *Hereford*, vacant by the death of Dr. *Humphry Humphreys*, on the twentieth of *November*, 1712, who was succeeded by Dr. *Philip Bisse*, translated from the see of *St. David's*.'



out dining with him ; so I dined there to-day, and he has at last fallen in with my project (as he calls it) of coining half-pence and farthings with devices, like medals, in honour of the queen, every year changing the device. I wish it may be done.

23d, Duke of *Ormond* and I appointed to dine with *Ned Southwell* to-day, to talk of settling your affairs of parliament in *Ireland* ; but there was a mixture of company, and the duke of *Ormond* was in haste, and nothing was done. If your parliament meets this summer, it must be a new one ; but I find some are of opinion there should be none at all these two years. I will trouble myself no more about it. My design was to serve the duke of *Ormond*. Dr. *Pratt* and I sat this evening with the bishop of *Clogher*, and played at ombre for three-pence. That I suppose is but low with you. I found, at coming home, a letter from *M*, No. 37. I shall not answer it this bout, but will the next. I have got a terrible new cold, before my old was quite gone, and don't know how. I shall have *D*. *D*'s money soon from the exchequer.



quer. The bishop of *Dromore* is dead now at last.

24th, I was at court to-day, and it was comical to see lord *Abercorn* bowing to me, but not speaking, and lord *Selkirk* the same. I dined with lord treasurer, and his *Saturday* club, and sat with him two hours after the rest were gone, and spoke freer to him of affairs than I am afraid others do, who might do more good. All his friends repine, and shrug their shoulders; but will not deal with him so freely as they ought. It is an odd business; the parliament just going to sit, and no employments given. They say they will give them in a few days. There is a new bishop made of *Hereford*; so *Ossory* is disappointed. I hinted so to his friends two months ago, to make him leave off deluding himself and being indiscreet, as he was.



L E T T E R LXXIX.

Mr. Secretary S T. J O H N to Dr.  
S W I F T\*.

DEAR DOCTOR,

I ASK pardon for my mistake, and I send you the right paper. I am, in sickness and in health, ever your faithful friend, and obedient servant,

H. S T. J O H N.

L E T T E R LXXX.

Lord B O L I N G B R O K E to Dr.  
S W I F T.

Thursday Morning, two o'clock, Jan. 5, 1712.

T H O' I have not seen you, I did not fail to write to lord treasurer. *Non tua res agitur*, dear *Jonathan*. It is the treasurer's cause †, it is my cause, 'tis every man's cause, who is embarked on our bottom.

\* In 1712, when he was writing *The History of the four last Years of Queen Anne*.

† This seems to relate to the promotion of Dr. Swift, in which lord *Bolingbroke*, in one of his letters, charges the lord treasurer with being extremely backward. Dr. Swift was made dean of *St. Patrick's* April 23, following. See Swift's letter to Mrs. *Dingley*, April 7, 1713.

Depend



Depend upon it, that I never will neglect any opportunity of shewing that true esteem, that sincere affection, and honest friendship for you, which fills the breast of your faithful servant,

BOLINGBROKE.

L E T T E R LXXXI.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, January, 25, 1712-13.

WE had such a terrible storm to-day, that going to lord *Bolingbroke's* I saw a hundred tiles fallen down ; and one swinger fell about forty yards before me, that would have killed a horse : so after church and court, I walked through the Park, and took a chair to lord treasurer's. Next door to his house a tin chimney-top had fallen down, with a hundred bricks. It is grown calm this evening. I wonder had you such a wind to-day ? I hate it as much as any hog does. Lord treasurer has engaged me to dine again with him to-morrow. He has those tricks sometimes of inviting me from day to day, which I am forced to break through.



through. My little pamphlet is out ; 'tis not politics.

26th, This morning I felt a little touch of giddiness, which has disordered and weakened me with its ugly remains all this day. After dinner at lord treasurer's, the *French* ambassador, duke *d'Aumont*, sent lord treasurer word, that his house was burned down to the ground. It took fire in the upper rooms, while he was at dinner with *Monteleon*, the *Spanish* ambassador, and other persons ; and soon after lord *Bolingbroke* came to us with the same story. We are full of speculations upon it, but I believe it was the carelessness of his *French* rascally servants. 'Tis odd, that this very day lord *Somers*, *Wharton*, *Sunderland*, *Halifax*, and the whole club of whig lords, dined at *Pontac's* in the city, as I received private notice they have some damned design. I tell you another odd thing ; I was observing it to lord treasurer, that he was stabbed on the day king *William* died, and the day I saved his life, by opening the band-box, was king *William's* birth-day. My friend Mr. *Lewis* \* has had a lye spread

\* ' *Erasmus Lewis*, secretary to the earl of *Dartmouth*, one of the secretaries of state, and afterwards to the earl  
on



on him by the mistake of a man, who went to another of his name, to give him thanks for passing his privy seal to come from *France*. That other *Lewis* spread about, that the man brought him thanks from lord *Pertb* and lord *Melfort* (now lords with the Pretender) for his great services, &c. The lords will examine that other *Lewis* to-morrow in council ; and I believe you will hear of it in the prints, for I will make *Abel Roper* give a relation of it.

27th, I dined to-day with lord-treasurer : this makes four days together ; and he has invited me again to-morrow, but I absolutely refused him. I was this evening at a christening with him of lord *Dupplin's* daughter. He went away at ten ; but they kept me and some others till past twelve ; so you may be sure 'tis late, as they say. We have now stronger suspicions, that the duke *d'Aumont's* house was set on fire by malice. I was to-day to see lord keeper,

of *Oxford*, lord high treasurer. He was member for *Lestwithiel*, in *Cornwall*, in the parliament, which began April 9, 1713. A particular account of this affair may be seen in the *Examiner*, Vol. III. N<sup>o</sup> 21, for Feb. 2, 1712-13, and in *Boyer's Political State*, Vol. V. p. 25, & seq.

who



who has quite lost his voice with a cold. There Dr. *Ratcliffe* told me, that it was the ambassador's confectioner set the house on fire by boiling sugar, and going down and letting it boil over. Yet others still think differently; so I know not what to judge.

28th, I was to-day at court, where the *Spanish* ambassador talked to me, as if he did not suspect any design in burning *d'Aumont's* house, but the abbé *Gautier*, secretary for *France* here, said quite otherwise; and that *d'Aumont* had a letter the very same day, to let him know his house should be burned, and tells several other circumstances, too tedious to write. One is, that a fellow mending the tiles just when the fire broke out, saw a pot with wild-fire in the room. I dined with lord *Orkney*. Neither lord *Abercorn* nor *Selkirk* will now speak with me. I have disoblinded both sides.

29th, Our society met to-day, fourteen of us, and at the tavern. We now resolve to meet but once a fortnight, and have a committee every other week of six or seven to consult about doing some good. I proposed another message to lord treasurer by three principal members, to give one hundred



dred guineas to a certain person, and they are to urge it as well as they can. We also raised sixty guineas upon our own society; but I made them do it by assessors, and I was one of them, and we fitted our tax to the several estates. The duke of *Ormond* pays ten guineas, and I the third part of a guinea; at that rate, they may tax as often as they please.

30th, I have drank *Spa* waters these two or three days; but they do not pass, and make me very giddy. I am not well; I will take them no more.

I fauntered after church to-day with the provost; to see a library to be sold, and dined at five with lord *Orkney*. We still think there was malice in burning *d'Aumont's* house. I hear little *Harrison* is come over; it was he I sent to *Utrecht*. He is now queen's secretary to the embassy, and has brought with him the barrier treaty, as it is now corrected by us, and yielded to by the *Dutch*, which was the greatest difficulty to retard the peace. I hope he will bring over the peace a month hence, for we will send him back as soon as possible. I long to see the little brat, my own creature. His pay is in all a thousand pounds



pounds a year, and they have never paid him a groat, though I have teased their hearts out. He must be three or four hundred pounds in debt at least.

31st, *Harrison* was with me this morning; we talked three hours, and then I carried him to court. When we went down to the door of my lodging, I found a coach waited for him. I chid him for it; but he whispered me, it was impossible to do otherwise; and in the coach he told me, he had not one farthing in his pocket to pay it; and therefore took the coach for the whole day, and intended to borrow money some where or other. So there was the queen's minister intrusted in affairs of the greatest importance, without a shilling in his pocket to pay a coach. I paid him while he was with me seven guineas, in part of a dozen of shirts he bought me in *Holland*. I presented him to the duke of *Ormond*, and several lords at court; and I contrived it so, that lord treasurer came to me, and asked (I had *Parnell* by me) whether that was Dr. *Parnell*, and came up and spoke to him with great kindness, and invited him to his house. I value myself upon making the ministry desire to be ac-



quainted with *Parnell*, and not *Parnell* with the ministry. His poem is almost fully corrected, and shall be soon out. Here is enough for to-day ; only to tell you, that I was in the city with my printer to alter an \* *Examiner*, about my friend *Lewis's* story, which will be told with remarks.

*February* 1st, I could do nothing till to-day about the *Examiner*, but the printer came this morning, and I dictated to him what was fit to be said, and then Mr. *Lewis* came and corrected it as he would have it; so I was neither at church nor court. The duke of *Ormond* and I dined at lord *Orkney's*. I left them at seven, and sat with Sir *Andrew Fountain*, who has a very bad fore leg, for which he designs to go to *France*. The parliament is to sit on the third, but will adjourn for three or four days ; for the queen is laid up with the gout, and both speakers out of order, though one of them, lord keeper, is almost well. I spoke to the duke of *Ormond* a good deal about *Ireland*. We do not altogether agree, nor am I judge enough of *Irish* affairs ; but I will speak to lord

See *Examiner*, Vol. III. No. 21.

trea-



treasurer to-morrow, that we three may settle them some way or other.

2d, It rained all this day, and *Dilly* came to me, and was coaching it into the city; so I went with him for a shaking, because it would not cost me a farthing. There I met my friend *Stratford*, the merchant, who is going abroad to gather up his debts, and be clear in the world. He begged me I would dine with some merchant friends of ours there, because it was the last time I should see him: so I did, and thought to have seen lord treasurer in the evening, but he happened to go out at five; so I visited some friends, and came home. The parliament meets to-morrow, but will be prorogued for a fortnight; which disappointment, will, I believe, vex abundance of them, though they are not whigs; for they are forced to be in town at expence for nothing: but we want an answer from *Spain*, before we are sure of every thing being right for the peace; and God knows whether we can have that answer this month. It is a most ticklish juncture of affairs; we are always driving to an inch: I am weary of it.



3d, The parliament met, and was prorogued, as I said, and I found some cloudy faces, and heard some grumbling. We have got over all our difficulties with *France*, I think. They have now settled all the articles of commerce between us and them, wherein they were very much disposed to play the rogue, if we had not held them to; and this business we wait for from *Spain*, is to prevent some other rogueries of the *French*, who are finding an evasion to trade to the *Spanish West Indies*; but I hope we shall prevent it. I dined with lord treasurer, and he was in good humour enough. I gave him that part of my book in manuscript to read, where his character was, and drawn pretty freely. He was reading and correcting it with his pencil, when the bishop of St. *David's* \* (now removing to *Hereford*) came and interrupted us. I left him at eight, and sat till twelve with the provost and bishop of *Clogher*.

4th, I was to-day at court, but kept out of lord treasurer's way, because I was en-

\* 'Dr. Philip Bisse.'



gaged to the duke of *Ormond*, where I dined, and, I think, eat and drank too much. I sat this evening with lady *Masbam*, and then with lord *Masbam* and lord treasurer at lord *Masbam*'s. It was last year, you may remember, my constant evening place. I saw lady *Fersey* with lady *Masbam*, who has been laying out for my acquaintance, and has forced a promise from me to drink chocolate with her in a day or two, which I know not whether I shall perform, for I do not much like her character; but she is very malicious, and therefore I think I must keep fair with her. I did not write to Dr. *Coghill* that I would have nothing in *Ireland*; but that I was soliciting nothing any where, and that is true. I have named Dr. *Sterne* \* to lord treasurer, lord *Bolingbroke*, and the duke of *Ormond*, for a bishopric, and I did it heartily. I know not what will come of it; but I tell you as a great secret, that I have made the duke of *Ormond* promise me to recommend no-body till he tells me, and this for some reasons too long to mention. My head is still in no good order.

\* 'Dean of *St. Patrick's*.'



5th, I dined to-day with Sir *Andrew Fountain* and the provost, and played at ombre with him all the afternoon. I won, yet Sir *Andrew* is an admirable player. Lord *Pembroke* came in, and I gave him three or four scurvy *Dilly*-puns, that begin with an *if*. I believe I shall write no more this good while, nor publish what I have done. Pray God mend *Pp*'s health; mine is but very indifferent. I have left off *Spa* water; it makes my legs swell.

6th, This is the queen's birth-day, and I never saw it celebrated with so much luxury and fine cloaths. I went to court to see them, and I dined with lord keeper, where the ladies were fine to admiration. I passed the evening at Mrs. *Vanbomrigh*'s, and came home pretty early. Pray God keep the queen; she was very ill about ten days ago, and had the gout in her stomach. When I came from lord keeper's, I called at lord treasurer's, because I heard he was very fine; and that was a new thing, and it was true; for his coat and waistcoat were embroidered. All things grow dear in *Ireland*, but corn to the parsons; for my livings are fallen much this year by *Parvisol*'s account.

7th, I



7th, I was at court to-day, but saw no birth-day cloaths; the great folks never wear them above once or twice. I dined with lord *Orkney*, and sat the evening with Sir *Andrew Fountain*, whose leg is in a very dubious condition. This, I believe, will hardly go till *Saturday*; for being not very well, I dare not study much: so I let company come in a morning, and pass the afternoon in dining and sitting somewhere. Lord treasurer is angry, if I don't dine with him every second day, and I cannot part with him till late. He kept me last night till near twelve. Our weather is constant rain above these two months, which hinders walking, so that our spring is not like yours. I have not seen *Fanny Manly* yet; I cannot find time. I am in rebellion with all my acquaintance, but I will mend with my health and the weather. Colds! why we are all dying with colds; but now they are a little over, and my second is almost over.

8th, It was terribly rainy to-day from morning till night. I intended to have dined with lord treasurer, but went to see Sir *Andrew Fountain*, and he kept me to dinner, which saved coach hire, and I staid



with him all the afternoon, and lost thirteen shillings and sixpence at ombre. There was management! and lord treasurer will chide; but I'll dine with him to-morrow. The bishop of *Clogher's* daughter has been ill some days, and it proves the small pox. She is very full; but it comes out well, and they apprehend no danger. Lady *Orkney* has given me her picture; a very fine original of Sir *Godfrey Kneller's*; it is now a mending. He has favoured her squint admirably; and you know I love a cast in the eye. I was to see lady *Worsley* to-day, who is just come to town; she is full of rheumatic pains. All my acquaintance grow old and sickly.

9th, I thought to have dined with lord treasurer to-day, but he dined abroad at *Tom Harley's*; so I dined at lord *Masbam's*, and so was winning all I had lost playing with lady *Masbam* at crown picquet, when I went to *Pool's*, and I lost it again. Lord treasurer came to us, and chid me for not following him to *Tom Harley's*. I was this morning to see lady *Fersey*, and we have made twenty parties about dining together, and I shall hardly keep one of them. She is reduced after all her greatness to seven  
2
servants,



fervants, and a small house, and no coach. I like her tolerably as yet.

10th, I made visits this morning to the duke and dutchess of *Ormond*, and lady *Betty*, and the dutchess of *Hamilton*. When I was writing this near twelve o'clock, the duchess of *Hamilton* sent to have me dine with her to-morrow. I am forced to give my answer through the door, for my man has got the key, and is gone to bed; but I cannot obey her, for our society meets to-morrow. I stole away from my lord treasurer by eight, and intended to have passed the evening with Sir *Thomas Clarges* and his lady; but met them in another place, and have there sat till now. My head has not been ill to-day. I was at court, and made lord *Mansel* walk with me in the park before we went to dinner. Yesterday and to-day have been fair, but yet it rained all last night. I saw *Sterne* staring at court to-day. He has been often to see me, he says; but my man has not yet let him up. He is in deep mourning; I hope it is not for his wife. I did not ask him.

12th, I have reckoned days wrong all this while; for this is the twelfth. I do  
not



not know when I lost it. I dined to-day with our society, the greatest dinner I have ever seen. It was at *Jack Hill's*, the governor of *Dunkirk*. I gave an account of sixty guineas I had collected, and am to give them away to two authors to-morrow. And lord treasurer has promised me one hundred pounds to reward some others. I found a letter on my table last night, to tell me, that poor little *Harrison*, the queen's secretary, that came lately from *Utrecht* with the barrier treaty, was ill, and desired to see me at night; but it was late, and I could not go till to-day. I have often mentioned him in my letters, you may remember. I went in the morning, and found him mighty ill, and got thirty guineas for him from lord *Bolingbroke*, and an order for one hundred pounds from the treasury, to be paid him to-morrow; and I have got him removed to *Knightbridge* for air. He has a fever and inflammation on his lungs; but I hope will do well.

13th, I was to see a poor poet, one Mr. *Diaper*, in a nasty garret, very sick. I gave him twenty guineas from lord *Bolingbroke*, and disposed the other sixty to two other authors, and desired a friend to receive the  
one



one hundred pounds for poor *Harrison*, and will carry it to him to-morrow morning. I sent to see how he did, and he is extremely ill ; and I am very much afflicted for him, as he is my own creature in a very honourable post, and very worthy of it. His mother and sister attend him, and he wants nothing. I dined in the city.

14th, I took *Parnell* this morning, and we walked to see poor *Harrison*. I had the one hundred pounds in my pocket. I told *Parnell* I was afraid to knock at the door ; my mind misgave me. I did knock, and his man in tears told me his master was dead an hour before. Think what grief this is to me ! I went to his mother, and have been ordering things for his funeral with as little cost as possible, to-morrow at ten at night. Lord treasurer was much concerned when I told him. I could not dine with lord treasurer, nor any where else ; but got a bit of meat towards evening. No loss ever grieved me so much : poor creature ! Pray God almighty bless you. Adieu. I send this away to-night, and I am sorry it must go while I am in so much grief.

L E T-



## L E T T E R LXXXII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, Feb. 15, 1712-13.

I DINED to-day with Mr. *Rowe*, and a projector, who has been teasing me with twenty schemes to get grants; and I don't like one of them; and, besides, I was out of humour for the loss of poor *Harrison*. At ten this night I was at his funeral, which I ordered to be as private as possible. We had but one coach with four of us; and when it was carrying us home after the funeral, the braces broke; and we were forced to sit in it, and have it held up, till my man went for chairs, at eleven at night, in terrible rain. I am come home very melancholy, and will go to bed.

16th, I dined to-day with lord *Dupplin*, and some company, to divert me; but left them early, and have been reading a foolish book for amusement. I shall never have courage again to care for making any body's fortune. The parliament meets to-morrow, and will be prorogued another fortnight, at which several of both parties were angry; but it cannot be helped, though  
every



every thing about the peace is past all danger. I never saw such a continuance of rainy weather. We have not had two fair days together these ten weeks. I have not dined with lord treasurer these four days, nor can till *Saturday*; for I have several engagements till then, and he will chide me to some purpose. I am perplexed with this one hundred pounds of poor *Harrison's*, what to do with it. I cannot pay his relations till they administer, for he is much in debt; but I will have the staff in my own hands, and venture nothing.

17th, Lady *Fersey* and I dined, by appointment, to-day with lord *Bolingbroke*. He is sending his brother to succeed Mr. *Harrison*. It is the prettiest post in *Europe* for a young gentleman. I lost my money sadly at ombre; I make a thousand blunders at it, and play but three-penny ombre; but it is what you call running ombre. Lady *Clarges*, and a drab I hate, won a dozen shillings of me last night. The parliament was prorogued to-day. People grumble; and the good of it is, the peace cannot be finished by the time they meet, there are so many fiddling things to do. I reckon you have all your cards from *France*,  
for



for ours pay fix-pence a pack taxes, which goes deep to the box. I have given away all my *Spa* water, and take some nasty steel drops, and my head has been better this week past. I send every day to see how Miss *Ashe* does. She is very full, they say, but in no danger. I fear she will lose some of her beauty. The son lies out of the house. I wish he had them too, while he is so young.

18th, The earl of *Abingdon* had been teasing me these three months to dine with him; and this day was appointed about a week ago, and I named my company; lord *Stawell*, colonel *Disney*, and Dr. *Arbuthnot*; but the two last slipped out their necks, and left *Stawell* and me to dine there. We did not dine till seven, because it is *Ash-Wednesday*. We had nothing but fish, which lord *Stawell* could not eat, and got a broiled leg of a turkey. Our wine was poison; yet the puppy has twelve thousand pounds a year. His carps were raw, and his candles tallow. He shall not catch me in haste again, and every body has laughed at me for dining with him. I was to-day to let *Harrison's* mother know I could not pay her till she administers;  
which



which she will do. There were more whigs to-day at court than tories. I believe they think the peace must be made, and so come to please the queen. She is still lame with the gout.

19th, I was at court to-day, to speak to lord *Bolingbroke*, to look over *Parnell's* poem since it is corrected; and *Parnell* and I dined with him, and he has shewn him three or four more places to alter a little. Lady *Bolingbroke* came down to us while we were at dinner, and *Parnell* stared at her, as if she were a goddess. I thought she was like *Parnell's* wife, and he thought so too. *Parnell* is much pleased with lord *Bolingbroke's* favour to him, and I hope it may one day turn to his advantage. His poem will be printed in a few days. Our weather continues raining as fresh as if it had not rained at all. I sat to-night at lady *Masham's*, where lord treasurer came, and scolded me for not dining with him. I told him, I would not till *Saturday*. I have stayed there till past twelve; so good night.

20th, Lady *Fersey*, lady *Catherine Hyde* \*, the *Spanish* ambassador, the duke *d'Atree*,

\* The present duchess of *Queensberry*.



another *Spaniard*, and I, dined to-day, by appointment, with lord *Bolingbroke* ; but they fell a drinking so many *Spanish* healths in champagne, that I stole away to the ladies, and drank tea till eight ; and then went on and lost my money at ombre with Sir *Andrew Fountain*, who has a very bad leg. Miss *Ashe* is past all danger ; and her eye, which was lately bad (I suppose one effect of her distemper) is now better. I do not let the bishop see me, nor shall this good while. I will speak to Mr. *Griffin* to-morrow, about *Ppt's* brother *Filly*, and desire, that his employment may be mended.

21st, I saw *Griffin* at court. He says he knows nothing of a salt-work at *Repton* ; but that he will give *Filly* a better employment, and desires *Filly* will write to him. If I knew where to write to *Filly*, I would ; but pray do you. Bid him let Mr. *Griffin* know, that he has had the honour to be recommended by Dr. *Swift*, &c. that he will endeavour to deserve, &c. I think Mr. *Griffin* lives in *Bury-street*, near *St. James's-street*, hard by me ; but I suppose your brother may direct to him to the salt-office, and, as I remember, he knows his christian name, because you sent it to me in the list of the commissioners.

I dined



I dined with lord treasurer and seven lords to-day. You know *Saturday* is his great day. I sat with them till eight, and then came home, and have been writing a letter to Mrs. *Davis*, at *York*. She took care to have a letter directed for me at lord treasurer's; for I would not own one she sent by post. She reproaches me for not writing to her these four years; and I have honestly told her, it was my way never to write to those whom I am never likely to see, unless I can serve them, which I cannot her, &c. *Davis*, the schoolmaster's widow.

22d, I dined to-day at lord *Orkney's*, with the duke of *Ormond* and Sir *Thomas Hanmer*. Have you ever heard of the latter? He married the duchess of *Grafton* in his youth (she dined with us too). He is the most considerable man in the house of commons. He went last spring to *Flanders*, with the duke of *Ormond*; from thence to *France*, and was going to *Italy*; but the ministry sent for him, and he has been come over about ten days. He is much out of humour with things. He thinks the peace is kept off too long, and is full of fears and doubts. It is thought



he is designed for secretary of state, instead of lord *Dartmouth*. We have been acquainted these two years; and I intend, in a day or two, to have an hour's talk with him on affairs. I saw the bishop of *Clogher* at court. Miss is recovering. I know not how much she will be marked. The queen is slowly mending of her gout, and intends to be brought in a chair to parliament, when it meets, which will be the third of *March*; for I suppose they will prorogue no more; yet the peace will not be signed then, and we apprehend the tories themselves will many of them be discontented.

23d, It was ill weather to-day, and I dined with Sir *Andrew Fountain*, and in the evening played at ombre with him and the provost, and won twenty-five shillings; so I recovered myself pretty well. *Dilly* has been dunning me to see *Fanny Manly*; but I have not yet been able to do it.

24th, I walked this morning to *Chelsea*, to see Dr. *Atterbury*, dean of *Christ-church*. I had business with him about entering Mr. *Fitz-Maurice*, lord *Kerry's* son, into his college; and lady *Kerry* is a great favourite of mine. Lord *Harley*, lord *Dupplin*,  
young



young *Bromley*, the speaker's son, and I, dined with Dr. *Stratford* and some other clergymen ; but I left them at seven, to go to lady *Jersey*, to see *Monteleon*, the *Spanish* ambassador, play at ombre. Lady *Jersey* was abroad, and I chid the servants, and made a rattle ; but since I came home, she sent me a message, that I was mistaken, and that the meeting is to be to-morrow. I have a worse memory than when I left you, and every day forget appointments ; but here my memory was by chance too good. But I'll go to-morrow ; for lady *Catherine Hyde*, and lady *Bolingbroke*, are to be there by my appointment.

25th, Lord treasurer met me last night at lord *Masham's*, and thanked me for my company in a jeer, because I had not dined with him in three days. He chides me if I stay but two days away together. What will this come to ? Nothing. My grandmother used to say, more of your lining, and less of your dining. However, I dined with him, and could hardly leave him at eight, to go to lady *Jersey's* where five or six foreign ministers were, and as many ladies. *Monteleon* played like the *English*, and cried gacco, and knocked his knuc-

Y 2
kles,



kles for trump, and played at small games like *Ppt.* Lady *Fersey* whispered me to stay, and sup with the ladies when the fellows were gone ; but they played till eleven, and I would not stay. Lady *Catherine Hyde* had a mighty mind I should be acquainted with lady *Dalkeith*, her sister, the duke of *Monmouth's* eldest son's widow, who was of the company to night ; but I did not like her ; she paints too much.

26th, This day our society met at the duke of *Ormond's* ; but I had business that called me another way ; so I sent my excuse, and dined privately with a friend. Besides, Sir *Thomas Hanmer* whispered me last night, at lady *Fersey's*, that I must attend lord treasurer and duke of *Ormond* at supper, at his house to night ; which I did, at eleven, and stayed till one. There was the duchess of *Grafton*, and the duke her son ; nine of us in all. Duke of *Ormond* chid me for not being at the society to-day, and said sixteen were there. I said, I never knew sixteen people good company in my life ; no, nor eight neither. We have no news in this town at all. I wonder why I don't write you news. I know less of what passes than any body, because  
I go



I go to no coffee-house, nor see any but ministers, and such people; and ministers never talk politics in conversation. The whigs are forming great schemes against the meeting of parliament, which will be next *Tuesday*, I still think, without fail; and we hope to hear, by then, that the peace is ready to sign. The queen's gout mends daily.

27th, I passed a very insipid day, and dined privately with a friend in the neighbourhood. Did I tell you that I have a very fine picture of lady *Orkney*, an original, by Sir *Godfrey Kneller*, three quarters length? I have it now at home, with a fine frame. Lord *Bolingbroke* and lady *Masham* have promised to sit for me; but I despair of lord treasurer only. I hope he will give me a copy, and then I shall have all the pictures of those I really love here; just half a dozen; only I will make lord keeper give me his print in a frame. I have little to do now with my pen; for my grand business \* stops till they are more pressing, and till something or other happens; and I believe I shall, with disgust, return to finish it, it is so very laborious. Sir *Tho-*

\* ' His *History of the Peace of Utrecht* '



*mas Hanmer* has my papers now. You are now at ombre with the dean, always on *Friday* night. I stood by, the other night, while the duke *d' Atree* lost six times with *Manille*, *Basto*, and three small trumps; and lady *Jersey* won above twenty pounds.

28th, I was at court to-day, when the abbé *Gautier* whispered me, that a courier was just come with an account, that the *French* king had consented to all the queen's demands, and his consent was carried to *Utrecht*, and the peace will be signed in a few days. I suppose the general peace cannot be so soon ready; but that is no matter. The news presently ran about the court. I saw the queen carried out in her chair, to take the air in the garden. I met *Griffin* at court, and he told me that orders were sent to examine *Filly*; and, if he be fit, to make him, I don't know what, supervisor. It is some employment, a good deal better than his own. The parliament will have another short prorogation; though it is not known yet. I dined with lord treasurer, and his *Saturday* company, and left him at eight. Farewel.



## L E T T E R LXXXIII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, March 1, 1712-13.

I SEE I answered a good deal of your last letter about your brother, &c. I dined with lady *Orkney*, and we talked politics till eleven at night; and, as usual, found every thing wrong, and put ourselves out of humour. Yes, I have lady *Giffard's* picture sent me by your mother. It is bound up at a place where my other things are. I have goods in two or three places; and when I leave a lodging, I box up the books I get (for I always get some) and come naked into a new lodging; and so on. Talk not to me of deanries; I know less of that than ever by much.

2d, I went into the city, to see *P.* at *Rolt*, who lodges with a city cousin, a daughter of cousin *Clerk* (you are much the wiser). I had never been at her house before. My he-cousin *Thomson* is dead, or dying. I dined with my printer, and walked home, and went to sit with lady *Clarges*. I found four of them, of which lady *Godolphin* was



one. I sat by her, and talked of her cards, &c. But she would not give one look, nor say a word to me. She refused some time ago to be acquainted with me. You know she is lord *Marlborough's* eldest daughter. She is a fool for her pains, and I'll pull her down. What can I do for Dr. *Smith's* daughter's husband? I have no personal credit with any of the commissioners. I will speak to *Keightley*; but I believe it will signify nothing. In the customs people must rise by degrees, and he must at first take what is very low, if he be qualified for that. *Ppt.* mistakes me; I am not angry at your recommending any one to me, provided you will take my answer. Some things are in my way, and then I serve those I can. But people will not distinguish, but take things ill, when I have no power; but *Ppt.* is wiser, and employments in general are very hard to get.

3d, I dined to-day with lord treasurer, who chid me for my absence, which was only from *Saturday* last. The parliament was again prorogued for a week, and I suppose the peace will be ready by then, and the queen will be able to be brought to the house, and make her speech. I saw Dr.

*Griffith*



*Griffith* two or three months ago, at a *Latin* play at *Westminster*; but did not speak to him. I hope he will not die; I should be sorry for *Ppt's* sake; he is very tender of her. I have long lost all my colds, and the weather mends a little. I take some steel drops, and my head is pretty well. I walk when I can, but am grown very idle; and, not finishing my thing, I ramble abroad, and play at ombre. I shall be more careful in my physic than Mrs. *Price*: 'tis not a farthing matter her death, I think; and so I say no more to-night, but will read a dull book, and go sleep.

4th, Mr. *Ford* has been this half year inviting me to dine at his lodgings; so I did to-day, and brought the provost and Dr. *Parnell* with me, and my friend *Lewis* was there. *Parnell* went away, and the other three played at ombre, and I looked on, which I love, and would not play. *Tisdall* is a pretty fellow, as you say; and when I come back to *Ireland* with nothing, he will condole me with abundance of secret pleasure. I believe I told you what he wrote to me, *That I have saved England, and he Ireland*: but I can bear that. I have learned to hear and see, and say nothing. I  
was



was to see the duchess of *Hamilton* to-day, and met *Bligh* of *Ireland* just going out of her house into his coach. I asked her how she came to receive young fellows. It seems he had a ball in the duke of *Hamilton's* house when the duke died; and the duchess got an advertisement put in the *Post-boy*, reflecting on the ball, because the *Marlborough* daughters were there; and *Bligh* came to beg the duchess's pardon, and clear himself.

5th, Lady *Masham* has miscarried; but is almost well again. I have paid many visits to-day. I met *Bligh* at the duke of *Ormond's*; and he begged me to carry him to the duchess of *Hamilton*, to beg her pardon again. I did on purpose to see how the blunderbus behaved himself; but I begged the duchess to use him mercifully, for she is the devil of a teaser. The good of it is, she ought to beg his pardon, for he meant no harm; yet she would not allow him to put in an advertisement to clear himself from hers, though hers was all a lye. He appealed to me, and I gravely gave it against him. I was at court to-day, and the foreign ministers have got a trick of employing me to speak for them to lord  
treas-



treasurer and lord *Bolingbroke*; which I do when the case is reasonable. The college need not fear; I will not be their governor. I dined with Sir *Thomas Hanmer* and his duchess. The duke of *Ormond* was there, but we parted soon, and I went to visit lord *Pembroke* for the first time; but it was to see some curious books. Lord *Cholmondeley* came in; but I would not talk to him, though he made many advances.

6th, I was to-day at an auction of pictures with *Pratt*, and laid out two pounds four shillings for a picture of *Titian*, and if it were a *Titian*, it would be worth twice as many pounds. If I am cheated, I'll part with it to lord *Masham*: if it be a bargain, I'll keep it to myself. But I made *Pratt* buy several pictures for lord *Masham*. *Pratt* is a great virtuoso that way. I dined with lord treasurer, but made him go to court at eight. I always tease him to be gone. I thought to have made *Parnell* dine with him, but he was ill; his head is out of order like mine, but more constant. Poor boy! I was at lord treasurer's levee with the provost, to ask a book of the college. I never go to his levee, unless it be to present some body.

7th, Yes,



7th, Yes, I hope *Leigh* will soon be gone. A p— on him! I met him once, and he talked gravely to me of not seeing the *Irish* bishops here, and the *Irish* gentlemen; but I believe my answers fretted him enough. I would not dine with lord treasurer to-day, though it was *Saturday*, for he has engaged me for to-morrow; but went and dined with lord *Masham*, and played at six-penny running ombre for three hours. There were three voles against me, and I was once a great loser, but came off for three shillings and six-pence. One may easily lose five guineas at it. Lady *Orkney* is gone out of town to-day, and I could not see her for laziness, but wrote to her. She has left me some physic. I never saw *D. D's* politics before, and I think it pretty extraordinary, and a great compliment to you, and I believe never three people conversed so much with so little politics. *Parvisol* has sent me a bill of fifty pounds, as I ordered him, which, I hope, will serve me, and bring me over. I was not at court to-day; a wonder!

8th, You must know, I give chocolate almost every day to two or three people, that I suffer to come to see me in a morning.



ing. My man begins to lye pretty well. 'Tis nothing for people to be denied ten times. My man knows all I will see, and denies me to every body else. This is the day of the queen's coming to the crown, and the day lord treasurer was stabbed by *Guiscard*. I was at court, where every body had their birth-day cloaths on, and I dined with lord treasurer, who was very fine. He shewed me some of the queen's speech, which I corrected in several places, and penned the vote of address of thanks for the speech \*; but I was of opinion the house should not sit on *Tuesday* next, unless they hear the peace is signed; that is, provided they are sure it will be signed the week after, and so have one scolding for all.

9th, Lord treasurer would have had me dine with him to-day; he desired me last night, but I refused, because he would not keep the day of his stabbing with all the cabinet, as he intended: so I dined with my friend *Lewis*; and the provost, and *Parnell*, and *Ford* were with us. I lost sixteen shillings at ombre; I don't like it.

\* See this address in the volumes just published by Mr. *Deane Swift*.



At night *Lewis* brought us word, that the parliament does not sit to-morrow. I hope they are sure of the peace by next week, and then they are right, in my opinion: otherwise I think they have done wrong, and might have sat three weeks ago. People will grumble; but lord treasurer cares not a rush. Lord keeper is suddenly taken ill of a quincy, and some lords are in commission. I think lord treasurer is to prorogue the parliament in his stead. You never saw a town so full of ferment and expectation. Mr. *Pope* has published a fine poem, called *Windsor Forest*. Read it.

To-morrow, I was early this morning to see lord *Bolingbroke*. I find he was of opinion the parliament should sit; and says, they are not sure the peace will be signed next week. The prorogation is to this day se'n-night. I went to look on a library I am going to buy, if we can agree. I have offered one hundred and twenty pounds, and will give ten pounds more. Lord *Bolingbroke* will lend me the money. I was two hours poring over the books. I will sell some of them, and keep the rest; but I doubt they wont take the money. I dined in the city, and sat an hour in the even-



evening with lord treasurer, who was in a very good humour; but reproached me for not dining with him yesterday and to-day. What will all this come to? Lord keeper had a pretty good night, and is better. I was in pain for him.

11th, I was this morning to visit the duke and duchess of *Ormond*, and the duchess of *Hamilton*, and went with the provost to an auction of pictures, and laid out fourteen shillings. I am in for it, if I had money; but I doubt I shall be undone; for Sir *Andrew Fountain* invited the provost and me to dine with him, and play at ombre, when I fairly lost fourteen shillings. I am come home; 'tis late, and my puppy let out my fire, and I am gone to bed, and writing there, and it is past twelve a good while. Went out four mattadores and a trump in black, and yet was basted.

12th, I was at another auction of pictures to-day, and a great auction it was. I made lord *Masham* lay out forty pounds. There were pictures sold of twice as much value a-piece. Our society met to-day at the duke of *Beaufort's*; a prodigious fine dinner, which I hate; but we did some business. Our printer was to attend us, as usual;



usual ; and the chancellor of the exchequer \* sent the author of the *Examiner* † twenty guineas. He is an ingenious fellow, but the most confounded coxcomb in the world, so that I dare not let him see me, nor am acquainted with him. I had much discourse with the duke of *Ormond* this morning, and am driving some points, to secure, &c. — I left the society at seven. I can't drink now at all with any pleasure. I love white *Portugal* wine better than claret, *Champagne*, or *Burgundy*. I have a sad vulgar appetite ; I cannot endure above one dish, nor ever could since I was a boy, and loved stuffing. It was a fair day, which is a rarity with us, I assure you. Never fair two days together.

13th, I had a rabble of *Irish* parsons this morning drinking my chocolate. I cannot remember appointments. I was to have supped last night with the *Swedish* envoy at his house, and some other company ; but forgot it, and he raillied me to-day at lord *Bolingbroke's*, who excused me, saying, the envoy ought not to be angry, because I serve lord treasurer and him the same way.

\* ‘ *Robert Benson, Esq;*’

† ‘ *Mr. Oldisworth.*’



For that reason, I very seldom promise to go any where. I dined with lord treasurer, who chid me for being absent so long, as he always does, if I miss a day. I sat three hours this evening with lady *Jersey*; but the first two hours she was at ombre with some company. I left lord treasurer at eight; I fancied he was a little thoughtful, for he was playing with an orange by fits, which I told him, among common men, looked like the spleen. I wish the peace may be ready; I mean, that we have notice it is signed, before *Tuesday*; otherwise the grumbling will increase.

L E T T E R LXXXIV.

ROBERT HUNTER \*, Esq;  
to Dr. S W I F T.

New-York, March 1, 1712-13.

I THINK I am indebted to you for two letters, and should have continued so, had it not been for the apprehension of your putting a wrong construction upon my ne-

\* Brigadier *Hunter*, governor of *New-York* and *New-Jersey*, who was afterwards appointed governor and captain-general of *Jamaica*, in the room of the duke of *Portland*, who died there, *July* 4th, 1726.



glect. My friends being few in number, I would not willingly, or by any fault, neglect nor lose those I have. The true cause is this. My unhappy circumstances have so soured me, that what ever I write must be vinegar and gall to a man of your mirth. For the better understanding of which, be pleased to read them in the words of one of my most renowned predecessors: *Quando pense venir a este gobierno a comer caliente, y a beber frio, y a recrear il cuerpo entre sabanas de Olanda, sobre colchones de pluma, he venido a hazar penitencia, como se fuera Ermetanno, y como no la bago de me voluntad, penso que al cabo al cabo, me ha de uevar el diablo.* This worthy indeed was but a type of me, of which I could fully convince you, by an exact parallel between our administrations and circumstances, which I shall reserve to another opportunity.

The truth of the matter is this: I am used like a dog, after having done all that is in the power of man to deserve a better treatment, so that I am now quite jaded. *Male vehi malo alio gubernante, quam tam malis rectoribus bene gubernare.*

The



The approaching peace will give leisure to the ministry to think of proper remedies for the distracted state of all the provinces; but of this more particularly, the importance of it by its situation being greater, and the danger by their conduct more imminent, than that of the rest. I have done my duty in representing their proceedings, and warning them of the consequences; and there I leave it. *Neque tam me ευελπισια consolatur ut antea quam αδιαφορια, qua nulla in re tam utor quam in hac civili et publica.*

I have purchased a seat for a bishop, and by orders from the society have given directions to prepare it for his reception. You once upon a day gave me hopes of seeing you there. It would be to me no small relief to have so good a friend to complain to. What it would be to you to hear me, when you could not help me, I know not. *Cætera desunt*, for the post cannot stay. Adieu. I am, very sincerely, yours,

R. HUNTER.



## L E T T E R LXXXV.

R O B E R T H U N T E R, Esq;  
to Dr. S W I F T.

New-York, March 14, 1712-13.

*QUONOROGH* *quaniou diadadega generoghqua aquegon tchitchenagaree*; or, lest you should not have your *Iroquoise* dictionary at hand, Brother, I honour you and all your tribe; tho' that is to be taken *cum grano salis*. For one of them has done me much harm. God reward him, &c. For that, and what you want to know besides relating to me, I refer you to the bearer, Mr. *Sharp*, our chaplain; a very worthy, ingenious, and conscientious clergyman. I wrote to you some time ago by a merchantship, and therein gave you some hints of my sufferings, which are not diminished since that time. In hopes of a better settlement, I wished for your company. Until that comes, I can contribute to nothing but your spleen. Here is the finest air to live upon in the universe. And if our trees and birds could speak, and our assemblymen be silent, the finest conversation too.

*Fert*



*Fert omnia tellus*, but not for me. For you must understand, according to the custom of our country, the sachims are of the poorest of the people. I have got the wrong side of Sir *Polidore's* office; a great deal to do, and nothing to receive. In a word, and to be serious at last, I have spent three years of life in such torment and vexation, that nothing in life can make me amends for it. *Tu interim sis lætus et memor nostrum, vale.*

R. HUNTER.

L E T T E R LXXXVI.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, March 14, 1712-13.

IT was a lovely day this, and I took the advantage of walking a good deal in the Park, before I went to court. Colonel *Disney*, one of our society, is ill of a fever, and, we fear, in great danger. We all love him mightily, and he would be a great loss. I doubt I shall not buy the library; for a roguish bookseller has offered sixty pounds more than I designed to give. So you see I meant to have a good bargain. I dined with lord treasurer, and his *Saturday*



company ; but there were but seven at table. Lord *Peterborow* is ill, and spits blood, with a bruise he got before he left *England* ; but, I believe, an *Italian* lady he has brought over is the cause, that his illness returns. You know old lady *Bellasis* is dead at last ? She has left lord *Berkeley* of *Stratton* one of her executors, and it will be of great advantage to him ; they say above ten thousand pounds. I staid with lord treasurer, upon business, after the company was gone ; but I dare not tell you upon what. My letters would be good memoirs, if I durst venture to say a thousand things that pass ; but I hear so much of letters opening at your post-office, that I am fearful, &c.

15th, Lord treasurer engaged me to dine with him again to-day, and I had ready what he wanted ; but he would not see it, but put me off till to-morrow. The queen goes to chapel now. She is carried in an open chair, and will be well enough to go to parliament on *Tuesday*, if the houses meet, which is not yet certain ; neither, indeed, can the ministers themselves tell ; for it depends on winds and weather, and circumstances of negotiation. However,  
we



we go on as if it was certainly to meet; and I am to be at lord treasurer's to-morrow, upon that supposition, to settle some things relating that way. *Ppt.* may understand me. The doctors tell me, that if poor colonel *Disney* does not get some sleep to-night, he must die. What care you? Ah! but I do care. He is one of our society; a fellow of abundance of humour; an old battered rake; but very honest. Not an old man, but an old rake. It was he that said of *Jenny Kingdom*, the maid of honour, who is a little old, that, since she could not get a husband, the queen should give her a brevet, to act as a married woman. You don't understand this. They give brevets to majors and captains, to act as colonels in the army. Brevets are commissions. Ask soldiers.

16th, I was at lord treasurer's before he came; and, as he entered, he told me, the parliament was prorogued till *Thursday* se'n-night. They have had some expresses, by which they count, that the peace will be signed by that time; at least that *France*, *Holland*, and we will sign some articles, by which we shall engage to sign the peace, when it is ready. But *Spain* has no minister



there ; for *Monteleon*, who is to be their ambaffador at *Utrecht*, is not yet gone from hence ; and till he is there, the *Spaniards* can fign no peace. And one thing take notice of, that a general peace can hardly be finifhed thefe two months, fo as to be proclaimed here ; for, after figning, it muft be ratified ; that is, confirmed by the feveral princes at their courts, which to *Spain* will coft a month ; for we muft have notice, that it is ratified in all courts, before we can proclaim it ; fo be not in too much hafte.

17th, The *Irifh* folks were difappointed, that the parliament did not meet to-day, becaufe it was *St. Patrick's-day* ; and the *Mall* was fo full of croffes, that I thought all the world was *Irifh*. Mifs *Afhe* is almoft quite well, and I fee the bifhop, but fhall not yet go to his houfe \*. I dined again with lord treafurer ; but the parliament being prorogued, I muft keep what I have till next week ; for I believe he will not fee it till juft the evening before the feffion. He has engaged me to dine with him again to-morrow, though I did all I

\* This feems to indicate, that *Swift* never had the fmall-pox.



could to put it off; but I don't care to disoblige him.

18th, I have now dined six days successively with lord treasurer; but at night I stole away, while he was talking with somebody else, and so am at liberty to-morrow. There was a flying report of a general cessation of arms: every body had it at court; but, I believe, there is nothing in it. I asked a certain *French* minister how things went? And he whispered me in *French*, Your plenipotentiaries and ours play the fool. None of us indeed approve of the conduct of either at this time; but lord treasurer was in full good humour for all that. He had invited a good many of his relations; and, of a dozen at table, they were all of the *Harley* family but myself. *Disney* is recovering, tho' you don't care a straw. *Dilly* murders us with his if-puns. You know them.

19th, The bishop of *Clogher* has made an if-pun, that he is mighty proud of, and designs to send it over to his brother *Tom*; but Sir *Andrew Fountain* has wrote to *Tom Ashe* last post, and told him the pun, and desired him to send it over to the bishop as his own; and, if it succeeds, it will be  
a pure



a pure bite. The bishop will tell it us as a wonder, that he and his brother should jump so exactly. I'll tell you the pun. If there was a hackney coach at Mr. *Poo-ley's* door, what town in *Egypt* would it be? Why, it would be *Hecatompolis*; *Hack at Tom Pooley's*. Silly, says *Ppt*. I dined with a private friend to-day; for our society, I told you, meet but once a fortnight. I have not seen *Fanny Manley* yet; I can't help it. Lady *Orkney* is come to town: why, she was at her country-house; but what care you?

20th, *Dilly* read me a letter to-day, from *Ppt*. She seems to have scratched her head when she wrote it. 'Tis a sad thing to write to people without taste. There you say, you hear I was going to *Bath*. No such thing; I am pretty well, I thank God. The town is now sending me to *Savoy*; forty people have given me joy of it, yet there is not the least truth that I know in it. I was at an auction of pictures, but bought none. I was so glad of my liberty, that I would dine no where; but, the weather being fine, I fauntered into the city, and ate a bit about five, and then supped at Mr. *Burke's*, the accom-  
tant-



tant-general, who had been engaging me this month. The bishop of *Clogher* was to have been there, but was hindered by lord *Paget's* funeral. The provost and I sat till one o'clock; and, if that be not late, I don't know what is late. *Parnell's* poem will be published on *Monday*, and to-morrow I design he shall present it to lord treasurer and lord *Bolingbroke* at court. The poor lad is almost always out of order with his head. *Burke's* wife is his sister.

21st, Morning. I will now finish my letter; for company will come, and a stir, and a clutter; and I'll keep the letter in my pocket, and give it into the post. I must go to court, and you know on *Saturday* I dine with lord treasurer of course. Farewel.

## L E T T E R LXXXVII.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, March 21, 1712-13.

I DINED with lord treasurer to-day, and find he has been at a meeting at lord *Halifax's* house with four principal whigs; but he is resolved to begin a speech against them when the parliament sits; and I have  
begged



begged that the ministers may have a meeting on purpose to settle that matter, and let us be the attackers; and I believe it will come to something, for the whigs intend to attack the ministers: and if, instead of that, the ministers attack the whigs, it will be better. And further, I believe we shall attack them on those very points they intend to attack us. The parliament will be again prorogued for a fortnight, because of passion-week. I forgot to tell you, that Mr. *Griffin* has given *Ppt's* brother a new employment, better than his former; but more remote, and consequently cheaper. I wish I could have done better, and hope that you will take what can be done in good part, and that *Ppt's* brother will not dislike it.

22d, I dined to-day with lord steward. There *Frank Annesley* (a parliamentman) told me he had heard, that I had wrote to my friends in *Ireland* to keep firm to the whig interest; for that lord treasurer would certainly declare for it after the peace. *Annesley* said twenty people had told him this. You must know this is what they endeavour to report of lord treasurer, that he designs to declare for the whigs; and  
a Scotch



a *Scotch* fellow has wrote the same to *Scotland*; and his meeting with those lords gives occasion to such reports. Let me henceforth call lord treasurer *Eltee*, because possibly my letters may be opened. Pray remember *L. T.* and *Eltee* are pronounced the same way. You see why I cannot come over the beginning of *April*. Whoever has to do with this ministry can fix no time.

23d, I dined to-day at Sir *Thomas Hammer's*, by an old appointment: there was the duke of *Ormond*, and lord and lady *Orkney*. I left them at six; every body is as sour as vinegar. I endeavour to keep a firm friendship between the duke of *Ormond* and *Eltee*. I have great designs, if I can compass them; but delay is rooted in *Eltee's* heart; yet the fault is not altogether there, that things are no better. Here is the cursedest libel in verse come out, called *The Ambassadors* \*; it is very

\* 'It was intitled, *The British ambassadors's speech to the French king*; for publishing of which Mr. *William Hart*, the printer of the *Flying Post*, was tried in the court of *King's Bench*, June 27, 1713, and sentenced to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of 50*l.* to her majesty, to be imprisoned two years, and till he should pay the said fine; and to find sufficient sureties for his good behaviour during life.'



dull too; it has been printed in three or four different ways, and is handed about, but not fold. It abuses the queen horribly. The *Examiner* \* has cleared me to-day of being author of his paper, and done it with great civilities to me. I hope it will stop people's mouths; if not, they must go on

\* ‘ The paper is N<sup>o</sup> 35. Vol. III. and the passage as follows : “ They have been a long time laying a load  
 “ upon a gentleman of the first character for learning,  
 “ good sense, wit, and more virtues, than even they can  
 “ set off and illustrate by all the opposition and extremes  
 “ of vice, which are the compounds of their party. He  
 “ is indeed fully accomplished to be mortally hated  
 “ by them, and they needed not to charge him with  
 “ writing the *Examiner*, as if that were a sufficient re-  
 “ venge; in which they shew as little judgment as  
 “ truth. I here pronounce him clear of that imputa-  
 “ tion; and, out of pure regard to justice, strip myself  
 “ of all the honour that lucky untruth did this paper,  
 “ reserving to myself the entertaining reflection, that I  
 “ was once taken for a man, who has a thousand other  
 “ recommendations, besides the malice of the worst  
 “ men, to make him loved and esteemed by the best.  
 “ This is the second time I have humoured that party,  
 “ by publicly declaring who is not the author of the  
 “ *Examiner*. I will lend them no more light, because  
 “ they do not love it. I could only wish, that their  
 “ invectives against that gentleman had been confi-  
 “ derable enough to call forth his public resentments;  
 “ and I stand amazed at their folly, in provoking so  
 “ much ruin to their party. Their intellectuals must be  
 “ as stupid as their consciences, not to dread the terrors  
 “ of his pen, though they met him with all that spite to  
 “ his person, which they ever expressed against his or-  
 “ der.”

and



and be hanged, I care not. 'Tis terrible rainy weather, I'll go sleep.

24th, It rained all this day, and ruined me in coach-hire. I went to see colonel *Disney*, who is past danger. Then I visited lord keeper, who was at dinner. I would not dine with him, but drove to lord treasurer (*Eltee* I mean) paid the coachman, and went in; but he dined abroad: so I was forced to call the coachman again, and went to lord *Bolingbroke's*. He dined abroad too; and at lord *Dupplin's* I alighted, and by good luck got a dinner there, and then went to the *Latin* play at *Westminster* school, acted by the boys; and lord treasurer, *Eltee* I mean again, honoured them with his presence. Lady *Masham's* eldest son, about two years old, is ill, and I am afraid will not live. She is full of grief, and I pity and am angry with her. Four shillings to-day in coach-hire; it won't do. Our peace will certainly be ready by *Thursday* fortnight; but our plenipotentiaries were to blame, that it was not done already. They thought their powers were not full enough to sign the peace, unless every prince was ready, which cannot yet be; for *Spain* has no minister yet at *Utrecht*: but now ours have new orders.

25th,



25th, Weather worfe than ever; terrible rain all day, but I was resolved I would spend no more money. I went to an auction of pictures with Dr. *Pratt*, and there met the duke of *Beaufort*, who promised to come with me to court, but did not. So a coach I got, and went to court, and did some little business there, but was forced to go home; for you must understand I take a little physic over-night, which works me next day. Lady *Orkney* is my physician. It is hierapicra two spoonfuls, devilish stuff! I thought to have dined with *Eltee*, but would not, merely to save a shilling; but I dined privately with a friend, and played at ombre, and won six shillings. Here are several people of quality lately dead of the small-pox. I have not yet seen Miss *Ashe*, but hear she is well. The bishop of *Clogher* has bought abundance of pictures, and Dr. *Pratt* has got him very good pennyworths. I can get no walks, the weather is so bad.

26th, Though it was shaving-day, head and beard, yet I was out early to see lord *Bolingbroke*, and talk over affairs with him; and then I went to the duke of *Ormond*, and so to court, where the ministers did not come, because the parliament was prorogued  
till



till this day fortnight. We had terrible rain and hail to-day. Our society met this day, but I left them before seven, and went to Sir *Andrew Fountain*, and played at ombre with him and Sir *Thomas Clarges* till ten, and then went to Sir *Thomas Hanmer*. His wife, the duchess of *Grafton*, left us after a little while, and I stayed with him about an hour upon some affairs, &c. Lord *Bolingbroke* left us at the society before I went; for there is an express from *Utrecht*, but I know not yet what it contains; only I know the ministers expect the peace will be signed in a week, which is a week before the session.

27th, *Parnell's* poem is mightily esteemed; but poetry sells ill. I am plagued with poor *Harrison's* mother: you would laugh to see how cautious I am of paying her the 100*l.* I received for her son from the treasury. I have asked every creature I know, whether I may do it safely; yet durst not venture, till my lord keeper assured me there was no danger. Yet I have not paid her, but will in a day or two; though I have a great mind to stay till *Ppt.* sends me her opinion, because *Ppt.* is a great lawyer. I dined to-day with a mixture of people at



a *Scotchman's*, who made the invitation to Mr. *Lewis* and me, and has some design upon us, which we know very well. I went afterwards to see a famous moving picture, and I never saw any thing so pretty. You see a sea ten inches wide, a town at the other end, and ships sailing in the sea, and discharging their cannon. You see a great sky, with moon and stars, &c. I am a fool.

28th, I had a mighty levee to-day. I deny myself to every body, except about half a dozen, and they were all here, and Mr. *Addison* was one. I had chocolate twice, which I don't like. Our rainy weather continues. Coach-hire goes deep. I dined with *Eltee* and his *Saturday* company, as usual, and could not get away till nine. Lord *Peterborow* was making long harangues, and *Eltee* kept me in spite. Then I went to see the bishop of *Ossory*, who had engaged me in the morning; he is going to *Ireland*. The bishop of *Killaloe* and *Tom Leigh* were with us. The latter had wholly changed his stile by seeing how the bishops behaved themselves; and he seemed to think me one of more importance than I really am. I put the ill conduct of the bishops about the



first-fruits, with relation to *Eltee* and me, strongly upon *Killaloe*, and shewed how it had hindered me from getting a better thing for them, called *The Crown Rents*, which the queen had promised. He had nothing to say, but was humble, and desired my interest in that and some other things.

29th, I have been employed in endeavouring to save one of your \* junior fellows, who came over here for a dispensation from taking orders, and, in soliciting it, has run out his time, and now his fellowship is void, if the college pleases, unless the queen suspends the execution, and gives him time to take orders. I spoke to all the ministers yesterday about it; but they say the queen is angry, and thought it was a trick to deceive her; and she is positive, and so the man must be ruined, for I cannot help him. I never saw him in my life; but the case was so hard, I could not forbear interposing. Your government recommended him to the duke of *Ormond*, and he thought they would grant it; and by the time it was refused, the fellowship, by rigour, is forfeited. I dined with Dr. *Arbutnot* (one of my bro-

\* Mr. Charles Grattan.



thers) at his lodgings in *Chelsea*, and was there at chapel; and the altar put me in mind of *Tisdal's* outlandish mould at your hospital for soldiers. I was not at court to-day, and I hear the queen was not at church. Perhaps the gout has seized her again. Terrible rain all day.

30th, Morning. I was naming some time ago, to a certain person, another certain person, that was very deserving, and poor and sickly; and the other, that first certain person, gave me 100*l.* to give the other, which I have not yet done. The person, who is to have it, never saw the giver, nor expects one farthing, nor has the least knowledge or imagination of it; so I believe it will be a very agreeable surprize; for I think it a handsome present enough.

At night I dined in the city, at *Pontac's*, with lord *Dupplin*\*, and some others. We were treated by one colonel *Cleland*, who has a mind to be governor of *Barbadoes*, and is laying these long traps for me and others, to engage our interest for him. He is a true *Scotchman*. I payed the 100*l.* this evening, and it was a great surprize to the receiver. We reckon the peace is now

\* Then one of the tellers of the exchequer.

signed,



signed, and that we shall have it in three days. I believe it is pretty sure.

31st, I thought to-day on *Ppt.* when she told me she supposed I was acquainted with the steward, when I was giving myself airs of being at some lord's house. Sir *Andrew Fountain* invited the bishop of *Clogher* and me, and some others, to dine where he did; and he carried us to the duke of *Kent's*, who was gone out of town; but the steward treated us nobly, and shewed us the fine pictures, &c. This evening lady *Masham*, Dr. *Arbutnot*, and I, were contriving a lye for to-morrow, that Mr. *Noble* †, who was hanged last *Saturday*, was recovered by his friends, and then seized again by the sheriff, and is now in a messenger's hands at the *Black Swan* in *Holborn*. We are all to send to our friends, to know whether they have heard any thing of it, and so we hope it will spread. However, we shall do our endeavours; nothing shall be wanting on our parts, and leave the rest to fortune.

*April* 1st, We had no success in our story, tho' I sent my man to several houses, to

† ' *Richard Noble*, an attorney at *New Inn*, executed at *Kingston*, for the murder of *John Sayer*, esq; whose wife, the daughter of admiral *Nevill*, he had seduced from her husband.'



inquire among the footmen, without letting him into the secret ; but I doubt my colleagues did not contribute as they ought. *Parnell* and I dined with *Dartineuf* to-day. You have heard of *Dartineuf*: I have told you of him. After dinner we all went to lord *Bolingbroke*'s, who had desired me to dine with him ; but I would not, because I heard it was to look over a dull poem of one parson *Trap*, upon the peace. The *Swedish* envoy told me to-day at court, that he was in great apprehensions about his master ; and indeed we are afraid that prince \* is dead among those *Turkish* dogs. I prevailed on lord *Bolingbroke* to invite Mr. *Addison* to dine with him on *Good Friday*. I suppose we shall be mighty mannerly. *Addison* is to have a play on *Friday* in *Easter* week : 'tis a tragedy, called *Cato* ; I saw it unfinished some years ago. Did I tell you, that *Steele* has begun a new daily paper, called the *Guardian* † : they say good for nothing. I have not seen it.

2d, I was this morning with lord *Bolingbroke*, and he tells me a *Spanish* courier is

\* *Charles* the XIIth.

† ' That paper began to be published on *Thursday*, *March* 12, 1712-13.'



just come, with the news that the king of *Spain* has agreed to every thing that the queen desires; and the duke *Offuna* has left *Paris*, in order to his journey to *Utrecht*. I was prevailed on to come home with *Trap*, and read his poem, and correct it; but it was good for nothing. While I was there employed, Sir *Thomas Hanmer* came up to my chamber, and baulked me of a journey he and I intended this week to lord *Orkney's*, at *Cliffden*; but he is not well, and his physician will not let him undertake such a journey. I intended to dine with lord treasurer; but going to see colonel *Disney*, who lives with general *Witbers*, I liked the general's little dinner so well, that I stayed and took share of it, and did not go to lord treasurer till six, where I found Dr. *Sacheverell*, who told us, that the book-feller had given him 100*l.* for his \* ser-

\* ' His (*Sacheverell's*) sermon, preached at *St. Saviour's* church, in *Southwark*, of which he was one of the chaplains, on *Luke xxiii. 34.* on occasion of the expiration of the three years silence imposed upon him by the house of lords, in consequence of his impeachment in 1709. The sermon was published under the title of *The Christian triumph, or the duty of praying for our enemies.* In *April, 1713*, he was presented by the queen to the rectory of *St. Andrew's, Holborn*, which had been held in *commendam* by Dr. *Thomas Manningham*, with the bishopric of *Chichester*.'



mon, preached last *Sunday*, and intended to print 30,000; but I believe he will be confoundedly bit, and will hardly sell above half. I have fire still, though *April* is begun, against my old maxim; but the weather is wet and cold. I never saw such a long run of ill weather in my life.

3d, I was at the queen's chapel to-day, but she was not there. Mr. *St. John*, lord *Bolingbroke's* brother, came this day at noon with an express from *Utrecht*, that the peace is signed by all the ministers there, but those of the emperor, who will likewise sign in a few days; so that now the great work is in effect done, and I believe will appear a most excellent peace for *Europe*, particularly for *England*. *Addison* and I, and some others, dined with lord *Bolingbroke*, and sat with him till twelve. We were very civil, but yet when we grew warm, we talked in a friendly manner of party. *Addison* raised his objections, and lord *Bolingbroke* answered them with great complaisance. *Addison* began lord *Somers's* health, which went about; but I bid him not name lord *Wharton's*, for I would not pledge it; and I told lord *Bolingbroke* frankly, that *Addison* loved lord *Wharton* as little.



as I did : so we laughed, &c. Well, but you are glad of the peace, you *Ppt.* the trimmer, are not you ? As for *D. D.* I don't doubt her.

4th, This passion-week people are so demure, especially this last day, that I told *Dilly*, who called here, that I would dine with him, and so I did ; and had a small shoulder of mutton of my own bespeaking. It rained all this Day. I came home at seven, and have never stirred out, but have been reading *Sacheverell's* long dull sermon, which he sent me. It is the first sermon since his suspension is expired ; but not a word in it upon the occasion, except two or three remote hints. The bishop of *Clogher* has been sadly bit by *Tom Ashe*, who sent him a pun, which the bishop had made, and designed to send to him, but delayed it ; and lord *Pembroke* and I made *Sir Andrew Fountain* write it to *Tom*. I believe I told you of it in my last ; it succeeded right, and the bishop was wondering to lord *Pembroke* how he and his brother could hit on the same thing. I'll go to bed soon, for I must be at church by eight to-morrow, *Easter-day*.

5th,



5th, *Warburton* wrote to me two letters about a living of one *Foulkes*, who is lately dead in the county of *Meath*. My answer is, that before I received the first letter, general *George* had recommended a friend of his to the duke of *Ormond*, which was the first time I heard of its vacancy, and it was the provost told me of it. I believe verily that *Foulkes* was not dead when *George* recommended the other. For *Warburton's* last letter said, that *Foulkes* was dead the day before the date. This has prevented me from serving *Warburton*, as I would have done, if I had received notice early enough. Pray say or write this to *Warburton*, to justify me to him. I was at church at eight this morning, and shaved and dressed after. I came back, but was too late at court; and lord *Abington* had like to have snapped me for dinner, and I believe will fall out with me for refusing him: but I hate dining with him, and I dined with a private friend, and took two or three good walks; for it was a very fine day, the first we have had a great while. Remember, was *Easter-day* a fine day with you? I have sat with lady *Worsley* till late.

6th,



6th, I was this morning, at ten, at the rehearsal of Mr. *Addison's* play, called *Cato*, which is to be acted on *Friday*. There were not above half a score of us to see it. We stood on the stage, and it was foolish enough to see the actors prompted every moment, and the poet directing them; and the drab, that acts *Cato's* daughter \*, out in the midst of a passionate part, and then calling out, what's next? The bishop of *Clogher* was there too, but he stood privately in a gallery. I went to dine with lord treasurer, but he was gone to *Wimbledon*, his daughter *Caermarthen's* country seat, seven miles off; so I went back, and dined privately with Mr. *Addison*, whom I had left to go to lord treasurer. I keep fire yet; I am very extravagant. I sat this evening with Sir *Andrew Fountain*, and we amused ourselves with making *if-puns* for *Dilly*. It is rainy weather; never saw the like. Pray tell *Swanton* I had his letter, but cannot contrive how to serve him. If a governor were to go over, I would recommend him as far as lay in my power, but I can do no more; and you know all employments in *Ireland*, at least almost all,

\* 'Mrs. *Oldfield*.'



are engaged in reversions. If I were on the spot, and had credit with a lord lieutenant, I would very heartily recommend him; but employments here are no more in my power than the monarchy itself.

7th, Morning. I have had a visiter here, that has taken up my time. I write by this post to the dean, but it is not above two lines; and one inclosed to you, but that inclosed to you is not above three lines; and then one inclosed to the dean, which he must not have, but upon condition of burning it immediately after reading, and that before your eyes; for there are some things in it I would not have liable to accident. You shall only know in general, that it is an account of what I have done to serve him in his pretensions on these vacancies, &c. But he must not know that you know so much.

### LETTER LXXXVIII.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

London, April 7, 1713.

**I** DINED with lord treasurer, and though the business I had with him is something against *Thursday*, when the parliament is to meet,



meet, and this is *Tuesday*, yet he put it off till to-morrow. I dare not tell you what it is, lest this letter should miscarry, or be opened; but I never saw his fellow for delays. The parliament will now certainly sit, and every body's expectations are ready to burst. At a council to-night, the lord chief justice *Parker* \*, a whig, spoke against the peace; so did lord *Cholmondeley*, another whig, who is treasurer of the household. My lord keeper was this night made lord chancellor. We hope there will soon be some removes.

8th, Lord *Cholmondeley* is this day removed from his employment, for his last night's speech; and Sir *Richard Temple*, lieutenant-general, the greatest whig in the army, is turned out; and lieutenant-general *Palmer* will be obliged to sell his regiment. This is the first fruits of a friendship I have established between two great men. I dined with lord treasurer, and did the business I had for him to his satisfaction. I won't tell you what it was. The parliament sits to-morrow for certain. Here is a letter printed in *Maccartney's* name, vindicating himself from the murder of duke *Ha-*

\* Afterwards earl of *Macclesfield*.



*milton.* I must give some hints to have it answered ; 'tis full of lies, and will give an opportunity of exposing that party. Tomorrow will be a very important day. All the world will be at *Westminster*. Lord treasurer is as easy as a lamb. They are mustering up the proxies of the absent lords ; but they are not in any fear of wanting a majority, which death and accidents have increased this year.

9th, I was this morning with lord treasurer, to present to him a young son of the late earl of *Jersey*, at the desire of the widow. There I saw the mace and great coach ready for lord treasurer, who was going to parliament. Our society met to-day ; but I expected the houses would sit longer than I cared to fast ; so I dined with a friend, and never enquired how matters went till eight this evening, when I went to lord *Orkney's*, where I found Sir *Thomas Hanmer*. The queen delivered her speech very well, but a little weaker in her voice. The crowd was vast. The order for an address was moved, and opposed by lords *Nottingham*, *Halifax* and *Cowper*. Lord treasurer spoke with great spirit and resolution ; lord *Peterborow* flirited against the duke



duke of *Marlborough* (who is in *Germany*, you know) but it was in answer to one of lord *Halifax's* impertinences. The order for an address passed by a majority of thirty-three, and the houses rose before six. This is the account I heard at lord *Orkney's*. The bishop of *Chester* \*, a high tory, was against the court. The duchess of *Marlborough* sent for him some months ago, to justify herself to him in relation to the queen, and shewed him letters, and told him stories, which the weak man believed, and was perverted.

10th, I dined with a cousin in the city, and poor *Patty Rolt* was there. I have got her rogue of a husband leave to come to *England* from *Portmahon*. The whigs are much down; but I reckon they have some scheme in agitation. This parliament time hinders our court-meetings on *Wednesdays*, *Thursdays*, and *Saturdays*. I had a great deal of business to-night, which gave me a temptation to be idle, and I lost a dozen shillings at ombre with Dr. *Pratt* and another. It rains every day, and yet we are all over dust. Lady *Masham's* eldest boy

\* ' Dr. *Francis Gastrell*, consecrated to that see *April* 4, 1713.'



is very ill : I doubt he will not live, and she stays at *Kensington* to nurse him, which vexes us all. She is so excessively fond, it makes me mad. She should never leave the queen, but leave every thing, to stick to what is so much the interest of the public, as well as her own. This I tell her; but talk to the winds.

11th, I dined at lord treasurer's with his *Saturday* company. We had ten at table, all lords, but myself, and the chancellor of the exchequer. *Argyle* went off at six, and was in very indifferent humour, as usual. Duke of *Ormond* and lord *Bolingbroke* were absent. I staid till near ten. Lord treasurer shewed us a small picture, enamelled work, and set in gold, worth about twenty pounds; a picture, I mean of the queen, which she gave to the duchess of *M——gb*, set in diamonds. When the duchess was leaving *England*, she took off all the diamonds, and gave the picture to one Mrs. *Higgins*, (an old intriguing woman, whom every body knows) bidding her make the best of it she could. Lord treasurer sent to Mrs. *Higgins* for this picture, and gave her one hundred pounds for it. Was ever such an ungrateful beast as that duchess?  
or



or did you ever hear such a story? I suppose the whigs will not believe it. Pray, try them. She takes off the diamonds, and gives away the picture to an insignificant woman, as a thing of no consequence; and gives it to her to sell, like a piece of old-fashioned plate.

12th, I went to court to-day, on purpose to present Mr. *Berkeley*\*, one of your fellows of *Dublin* college, to lord *Berkeley* of *Stratton*. That Mr. *Berkeley* is a very ingenious man, and a great philosopher, and I have mentioned him to all the ministers, and have given them some of his writings; and I will favour him as much as I can. This I think I am bound to, in honour and conscience, to use all my little credit towards helping forward men of worth in the world†. The queen was at chapel to-day, and looks well. I dined at lord *Orkney's* with the duke of *Ormond*, lord *Arran*, and Sir *Thomas Hanmer*. Mr. *St. John*, secretary at *Utrecht*, expects every

\* This Mr. *Berkeley* was afterwards the celebrated bishop of *Cloyne*. See lord *Bolingbroke's* letter, dated July 24, 1725; and the note.

† *Swift* procured him to be sent secretary and chaplain to *Sicily*, with the earl of *Peterborow*.



moment to return there with the ratification of the peace.

13th, This morning my friend, Mr. *Lewis*, came to me, and shewed me an order for a warrant for the three vacant deaneries; but none of them to me. This was what I always foresaw, and received the notice of it better, I believe, than he expected. I bid Mr. *Lewis* tell my lord treasurer, that I take nothing ill of him, but his not giving me timely notice, as he promised to do, if he found the queen would do nothing for me. At noon, lord treasurer hearing I was in Mr. *Lewis's* office, came to me, and said many things, too long to repeat. I told him, I had nothing to do but go to *Ireland* immediately; for I could not, with any reputation, stay longer here, unless I had something honourable immediately given to me. We dined together at the duke of *Ormond's*. He there told me, he had stopped the warrants for the deans, that what was done for me, might be at the same time, and he hoped to compass it to-night; but I believe him not. I told the duke of *Ormond* my intentions. He is content *Sterne* should be a bishop, and I have *St. Patrick's*; but, I believe,



believe, nothing will come of it, for stay I will not; and so I believe you will see me in *Dublin* before *April* ends. I am less out of humour than you would imagine; and if it were not, that impertinent people will condole with me, as they used to give me joy, I would value it less. But I still avoid company, and muster up my baggage, and send them next *Monday* by the carrier to *Chester*, and go see my willows, against the expectation of all the world.

14th, I dined in the city to-day, and ordered a lodging to be got ready for me against I came to pack up my things; for I will leave this end of the town as soon as ever the warrants for the deanries are out, which are yet stopped. Lord treasurer told Mr. *Lewis*, that it should be determined to-night; and so he will say an hundred nights; so he said yesterday, but I value it not. My daily journals shall be but short till I get into the city, and then I will send away this, and follow it myself; and design to walk it all the way to *Chester*, my man and I, by ten miles a day. It will do my health a great deal of good. I shall do it in fourteen days.



15th, Lord *Bolingbroke* made me dine with him to-day, (I was as good company as ever) and told me the queen would determine something for me to-night. The dispute is *Windsor*, or *St. Patrick's*. I told him I would not stay for their disputes, and he thought I was in the right. Lord *Masham* told me, that lady *Masham* is angry I have not been to see her since this business, and desires I will come to-morrow.

16th, I was this noon at lady *Masham's*, who was just come from *Kensington*, where her eldest son is sick. She said much to me of what she had talked to the queen, and lord treasurer. The poor lady fell a shedding tears openly. She could not bear to think of my having *St. Patrick's*, &c. I was never more moved than to see so much friendship. I would not stay with her, but went and dined with Dr. *Arbutnot*, with Mr. *Berkeley*, one of your fellows, whom I have recommended to the doctor, &c. Mr. *Lewis* tells me, that the duke of *Ormond* has been to-day with the queen; and she was content, that Dr. *Sterne* should be bishop of *Dromore*, and I dean of *St. Patrick's*; but then out came lord treasurer, and said, he



he would not be satisfied, but that I must be a prebendary of *Windsor*. Thus he perplexes things. I expect neither; but I confess, as much as I love *England*, I am so angry at this treatment, that, if I had my choice, I would rather have *St. Patrick's*. Lady *Masham* says, she will speak to the purpose to the queen to-morrow.

17th, I went to dine at lady *Masham's* to-day, and she was taken ill of a sore throat, and is aguish. She spoke to the queen last night, but had not much time. The queen says, she will determine to-morrow with lord treasurer. The warrants for the deanries are still stopped, for fear I should be gone. Do you think any thing will be done? I don't care whether it is or no. In the mean time I prepare for my journey, and see no great people, nor will see lord treasurer any more, if I go. Lord treasurer told Mr. *Lewis* it should be done to-night; so he said five nights ago.

18th, This morning Mr. *Lewis* sent me word, that lord treasurer told him the queen would determine at noon. At three lord treasurer sent to me to come to his lodgings at *St. James's*, and told me the queen was at last resolved, that Dr. *Sterne* should



be bishop of *Dromore*, and I dean of *St. Patrick's*; and that *Sterne's* warrant should be drawn immediately. You know the deanry is in the duke of *Ormond's* gift; but this is concerted between the queen, lord treasurer, and the duke of *Ormond*, to make room for me. I do not know whether it will yet be done; some unlucky accident may yet come. Neither can I feel joy at passing my days in *Ireland*; and I confess, I thought the ministry would not let me go; but perhaps they can't help it.

19th, I forgot to tell you, that lord treasurer forced me to dine with him yesterday as usual, with his *Saturday* company; which I did, after frequent refusals. To-day I dined with a private friend, and was not at court. After dinner, Mr. *Lewis* sent me word, that the queen stayed till she knew whether the duke of *Ormond* approved of *Sterne* for a bishop. I went this evening, and found the duke *Ormond* at the *Cockpit*, and told him, and desired he would go to the queen, and approve of *Sterne*. He made objections, and desired I would name any other deanry, for he did not like *Sterne*; that *Sterne* never went to see him; that he was influenced by the arch-  
bishop



bishop of *Dublin*, &c. so all is now broken again. I sent out for lord treasurer, and told him this. He says all will do well; but I value not what he says. This suspense vexes me worse than any thing else.

20th, I went to-day, by appointment, to the *Cockpit*, to talk with the duke of *Ormond*. He repeated the same proposals of any other deanry, &c. I desired he would put me out of the case, and do as he pleased. Then, with great kindness, he said he would consent; but would do it for no man else but me, &c. And he will speak to the queen to-day or to-morrow: so, perhaps, something will come of it. I can't tell.

21st, The duke of *Ormond* has told the queen, he is satisfied, that *Sterne* should be bishop, and she consents I shall be dean; and I suppose the warrants will be drawn in a day or two. I dined at an alehouse with *Parnell* and *Berkeley*; for I am not in humour to go among the ministers, though lord *Dartmouth* invited me to dine with him to-day, and lord treasurer was to be there. I said I would, if I were out of suspense.

22d, The queen says warrants shall be drawn, but she will dispose of all in *Eng-*



*land* and *Ireland* at once, to be teased no more. This will delay it some time; and, while it is delayed, I am not sure of the queen, my enemies being busy. I hate this suspense.

23d, I dined yesterday with general *Hamilton*. I forgot to tell you. I write short journals now. I have eggs on the spit. This night the queen hath signed all the warrants, among which *Sterne* is bishop of *Dromore*, and the duke of *Ormond* is to send over an order for making me dean of *St. Patrick's*. I have no doubt of him at all. I think 'tis now past. But you see what a condition I am in. I thought I was to pay but six hundred pounds for the house; but the bishop of *Clogher* says eight hundred pounds; first-fruits about one hundred and fifty pounds *Irish*, and so with a patent, &c. a thousand pounds in all; so that I shall not be the better for the deanry these three years. I hope, in some time, they will be persuaded here to give me some money to pay off these debts. I must finish the book\* I am writing, before I can go over; and

\* 'The *History of the Peace of Utrecht*.'

they



they expect I shall pass next winter here, and then I will drive them to give me a sum of money. However, I hope to pass four or five months with you. I received yours to-night ; just ten weeks since I had your last. I shall write next post to bishop *Sterne*. Never man had so many enemies in *Ireland* as he. I carried it with the strongest hand possible. If he does not use me well, and gently, in what dealings I shall have with him, he will be the most ungrateful of mankind. The archbishop of *York* \*, my mortal enemy, has sent, by the third hand, that he would be glad to see me. Shall I see him, or not ? I hope to be over in a month. I shall answer your rattle soon ; but no more journals. I shall be very busy. Short letters from henceforward. I shall not part with *Laracor*. That is all I have to live on, except the deanry be worth more than four hundred pounds a year. Is it ? Pray write to me a good-humoured letter immediately, let it be ever so short. This affair was carried with great difficulty, which vexes me. But they say here, it is

\* Dr. *Sharp*, who, with the duchess of *Somerset*, prevented the queen from giving him a bishopric.

much



much to my reputation, that I have made a bishop, in spite of all the world, and to get the best deanry in *Ireland*.

24th, I forgot to tell you I had *Sterne's* letter yesterday, in answer to mine. I dined in the city to-day with my printer, and came home early, and am going to be busy with my work. I will send this to-morrow, and I suppose the warrants will go then. I wrote to Dr. *Coghill*, to take care of passing my patent; and to *Parvisol*, to attend him with money, if he has any, or to borrow some where he can.

25th, Morning. I know not whether my warrant be got ready from the duke of *Ormond*. I suppose it will by to-night. I am going abroad, and will keep this unsealed, till I know whether all be finished.

I had this letter all day in my pocket, waiting till I heard the warrants were gone over. Mr. *Lewis* sent to *Southwell's* clerk at ten; and he said the bishop of *Killaloe* had desired they should be stopped till next post. He sent again, that the bishop of *Killaloe's* ‡ business had nothing to do with

\* ‘ Dr. *Thomas Lindsay*.’

ours.



ours. Then I went myself, but it was past eleven, and asked the reason. *Killaloe* is removed to *Raphoe*, and he has a mind to have an order for the rents of *Raphoe*, that have fallen due since the vacancy, and he would have all stop till he has gotten that. A pretty request! But the clerk, at Mr. *Lewis's* message, sent the warrants for *Sterne* and me; but then it was too late to send this, which frets me heartily.

26th, I was at court to-day, and a thousand people gave me joy; so I ran out. I dined with lady *Orkney*. Yesterday I dined with lord treasurer, and his *Saturday* people, as usual; and was so be-dean'd, &c. The archbishop of *York* says, he will never more speak against me. Pray see, that *Parvisol* stirs about getting my patent. I have given *Took D. D.'s* note, to prove she is alive.

27th, Nothing new to-day. I dined with *Tom Harley*, &c. I'll seal up this to night. Pray write soon.

L E T-



## L E T T E R LXXXIX.

MATTHEW PRIOR\*, Esq; to  
Dr. SWIFT.

Paris, April 8, 1713.

PRAY take this word writ after our packets closed, and the messenger's staying for it, as an equivalent for your dispatches at midnight, when the writer was half asleep. Hang me if I know how to go on, tho' I am in a country where every body does not only write letters, but print them. Our great affair goes on very successfully. We transmit the *Spanish* treaty, concluded at *Madrid*, for your approbation in *England*, and transmission to *Utrecht*; after which, I think, *pax sit* will become authentic *Latin*: after which, I suppose, our society will flourish, and I shall have nothing to do but to partake of that universal protection, which it will receive. In the mean time, pray give my great respects to our brethren†; and tell them,

\* He was plenipotentiary to *France*.

† The sixteen. See note to a letter from lord *Harley* to *Swift*, dated *July* 17, 1714.

that,



that, while in hopes of being favoured, they are spending their own money, I am advancing my interest in the *French language*, and forgetting my own mother-tongue. But we shall have time enough to perfect our *English*, when we have done with other matters. I want mightily to hear from lord treasurer. Tell him so. I owe brother *Arbutnot* a letter. Excuse my not writing to him, till I know what to say. I cannot find *Vanhomrigh* \* since he brought me your letter. I have a rarity of a book to send you by the first fair occasion. It makes but little of the *English* wit, *The Guardian*; but, possibly, I do not yet enter into his design. Let lord *Bolingbroke* know, I love him mightily; and pray do you as much for *Dick Skelton*. Adieu, my good friend. I am very truly, your obedient and faithful servant,

M. PRIOR.

\* One of the brothers of *Vanessa*. See the note prefixed to the Dean's letter to miss *Esther Vanhomrigh*, dated July 8, 1713.

L E T.



L E T T E R XC.

Dr. A T T E R B U R Y, afterwards  
Bishop of Rochester, to Dr. S W I F T.

Chelsea, Tuesday Morning,  
Mr. D E A N, April 21, 1713.

G I V E me leave to tell you, that there is no man in *England* more pleased with your being preferred than I am. I would have told you so myself at your lodgings, but that my waiting confines me. I had heard a flying report of it before; but my lord *Bolingbroke* yesterday confirmed the welcome news to me. I could not excuse myself without saying thus much, and I have not time to say more, but that I am your most affectionate and faithful servant,

F R. A T T E R B U R Y.

L E T T E R XCI.

Dr. S W I F T to Mrs. D I N G L E Y.

London, May 16, 1713.

Y O U R new bishop acts very ungratefully. I cannot say so bad of him as he deserves.



serves. I begged by the same post his warrant and mine went over, that he would leave those livings to my disposal. I shall write this post to him, to let him know how ill I take it. I have letters to tell me, that I ought to think of employing somebody to set the tythes of the deanry. I know not what to do at this distance. I cannot be in *Ireland* under a month. I will write two orders; one to *Parvisol*, and the other to *Parvisol* and ———; a blank for the fellow whom the last dean employed; and I would desire you to advise with friends, which to make use of. If the latter, let the fellow's name be inserted, and both may act by commission. If the former, then speak to *Parvisol*, and know whether he can undertake it. I doubt it is hardly to be done by a stranger alone, as *Parvisol* is. He may perhaps venture at all, to keep up his interest with me; but that is needless, for I am willing to do him any good, that will do me no harm. Pray advise with *Walls* and *Raymond*, and a little with bishop *Sterne* for form. Tell *Raymond* I cannot succeed to get him the living of *Moymed*. It is re-  
presented



presented here as a great fine-cure. Several chaplains have solicited for it; and it has vexed me so, that, if I live, I will make it my business to serve him better in something else. I am heartily sorry for his illness. I thank Mr. *Walls* for his letter. Tell him, that must serve for an answer, with my service to him and her. I shall buy bishop *Sterne's* hair, as soon as his household goods. I shall be ruined or at least sadly cramped, unless the queen will give me one thousand pounds. I am sure she owes me a great deal more. Lord treasurer rallies me upon it, and I believe intends it; but *quando?* I am advised to hasten over as soon as possible, and so I will, and hope to set out the beginning of *June*. Take no lodging for me; I can lie somewhere after I land, and I care not where, nor how. Pray think immediately, and give me some commissions, and I will perform them. You did not write to the Dean, &c. and I think you might have had a Dean under your girdle for the subscription. I have just finished my treatise\*, and must be ten days in correcting it.

\* 'His *History of the Peace of Utrecht*.'



L E T T E R X C II.

Sir T H O M A S H A N M E R  
to Dr. S W I F T.

S I R,

Tuesday.

I KEEP only the last book \*, which I shall have gone through before night. The rest I send you, with the very few observations I made upon them, which yet were as many as I could see occasion for; though, I do assure you, I read with the same strictness and ill-nature as in the former part. I am your most, &c.

T H O. H A N M E R.

*Indorsed, Received about May, 1713.*

L E T T E R X C I I I.

E R A S M U S L E W I S, Esq; †  
to Dr. S W I F T.

June 2, 1713.

I HOPE this will meet you at *Chester*, and that your passage at sea will be favoured with as mild weather as your journey by

\* ‘Of the MS. history of the Peace of *Utrecht*.’

† ‘Secretary to the lord treasurer, the earl of *Oxford*, and member for *Lestwithiel* in *Cornwall* in the parliament, which met *April 9, 1713*.’



land has been these two first days. The division yesterday, in the house of lords, was fifty-four against fifty-four. Proxies were called for, and we had seventeen to thirteen. This is the greatest victory we ever had. The duke of *Argyle* and the *Scotch* were against us to a man. The lords *Weymouth* and *Carteret* were with them. It was very comical to see the tories, who voted with lord treasurer against the dissolution of the union, under all the perplexities in the world, lest they should be victorious; and the *Scotch*, who voted for a bill of dissolution, under agonies, lest they themselves should carry the point they pretended to desire. In all the time I have been conversant in business, I never before observed both sides, at the same time, acting parts which they thought contrary to their interests. Let us hear from you sometimes, and believe there is no body with more sincerity yours, than, &c.

LET-



## L E T T E R XCIV.

The Rev. Mr. SHARPE to Dr. SWIFT.

REV. SIR,

London, June 4, 1713.

I WAS commanded by his excellency brigadier *Hunter*, governor of *New York*\*, to deliver the inclosed with my own hand. Had I been so happy, for his service and my own satisfaction, as to have seen you at *London*, I am persuaded your influence here might have contributed to create a better opinion of him, amongst some leading men in the society for propagation of the gospel in foreign parts, who have been much imposed on by the clamorous memorials of some indiscreet missionaries abroad. He has the just esteem of two-thirds of the clergy in his government, and the greatest part of the laity, who have either sense, probity, or honour; but his adversaries have made the church's cause a favourable handle for their repeated complaints, which, with the application of their friends here, makes them hopeful of success.

\* 'He was chaplain to brigadier *Hunter*, governor of *New York*.'



I have been twelve years abroad, in the service of the church in *America*: the last ten were in the station of chaplain to her majesty's forces at *New York*, where I had the opportunity of being very near to the several governors; and do assure you, that, if I had ever observed in him any inclination to weaken the interest of the church there, I could not in conscience offer to excuse him; but he is better known to you, than that I, who am altogether unknown, should presume to give his character.

What I beg leave to intreat of you is, to recommend me in my endeavours for his service, to the advice and assistance of your friends.

The perplexity of all his affairs at this time claims the good offices of all that wish him well. If, in favour to his excellency, you are pleased to honour me with the pardon of this, and what return the inclosed may require, direct for me to the care of Mr. *James Douglas*, in *Fen-Court, Fen-church-Street, London*. I beg leave to subscribe myself, with great respect, reverend Sir, your most obedient and most humble servant,

JOHN SHARPE.  
L E T-



## L E T T E R XCV.

Dr. SWIFT to Mrs. DINGLEY.

Chester, June 6, 1713.

I AM come here after six days. I set out on *Monday* last, and got here to-day about eleven in the morning. A noble rider! and all the ships and people went off yesterday, with a rare wind. This was told me, to my comfort, upon my arrival. Having not been used to riding these three years, made me terrible weary; yet I resolve on *Monday* to set out for *Holyhead*, as weary as I am: 'tis good for my health. I will come when God pleases; perhaps I may be with you in a week. I shall be three days going to *Holyhead*; I cannot ride faster. You will say, I am upon Stay-behind's mare. I have the whole inn to myself. I would fain escape this *Holyhead* journey; but I have no prospect of ships, and it will be almost necessary I should be in *Dublin* before the twenty-fifth instant, to take the oaths; otherwise I must wait to a quarter's session. I will lodge as I can; therefore take no lodgings for me, to pay in my absence.



The poor Dean can't afford it. I spoke again to the duke of *Ormond* for *Raymond*, and hope he may have it; for I laid it strongly to the duke, and gave him the bishop of *Meath's* memorial. I will speak to lord treasurer about Mrs. *South* to-morrow.—  
 Odsso! I forgot; I thought I had been in *London*. The letters to *Ireland* go at so uncertain an hour, that I am forced to conclude. Farewel.

L E T T E R XCVI.

ERASMUS LEWIS, Esq;  
 to Dr. SWIFT.

Whitehall, July 9, 1713.

WE are all running headlong into the greatest confusion imaginable. Sir *Thomas Hanmer*\* is gone into the country this morning, I believe much discontented; and I am very apprehensive neither lord *Anglesea*†, nor he, will continue long with us. I heartily wish you were here; for you might certainly be of great use to us, by your endeavours to reconcile, and by repre-

\* Speaker of the house of commons.

† ‘*Arthur*, who was joint vice-treasurer of *Ireland* with *Edward* earl of *Clarendon*.’

sending



senting to them the infallible consequences of these divisions. We had letters this morning from *Ireland*. What is the reason I had none from you? Adieu. I hope your want of health is not the cause.

L E T T E R XCVII.

E R A S M U S L E W I S, Esq;  
to Dr. S W I F T.

Whitehall, July 30, 1713.

T H I S day se'nnight the queen goes to *Hampton-Court*, and the *Monday* following to *Windsor*. I fancy by that time Mr. *Bromley* \* will be secretary of state, in the room of my lord †. Lord treasurer was abroad this evening, for the first time after a fortnight's illness. I hear there came a dozen of letters from you by the same post to your friends here. My lord treasurer desires you'll make all possible haste over; for we want you extremely.

\* 'William Bromley, Esq; appointed secretary of state, Aug. 17, 1713, in the room of William earl of *Dartmouth*, made lord privy-seal.'

† 'Dartmouth, to whom Mr. *Lewis* had been secretary.'

L E T-



## L E T T E R XCVIII.

Mr. P R I O R to Dr. S W I F T.

Paris, August 15-16, 1713.

**A**S I did not expect, my good friend *Jonathan*, to have received a letter from you at *Dublin*, so I am sure I did not intend to write one thither to you; but Mr. *Rosingrave* \* thinks it may do him service, in recommending him to you. If so, I am very glad of it; for it can be of no other use imaginable. I have writ letters now above twenty-two years. I have taken towns, destroyed fleets, made treaties, and settled commerce in letters. And what of

\* *Thomas Rosingrave*, a celebrated performer in music. When he arrived in *Ireland*, he played a voluntary at *St. Patrick's* cathedral, Dr. *Pratt*, then provost of *Dublin-college*, and the Dean being present. The doctor, who happened to dine at the deanry the same day, was so extravagant in his encomiums on *Rosingrave's* voluntary, that several of the company said they wished they had heard it. Do you? said *Swift*; then you shall hear it still: and he immediately sung out so lively, and yet so ridiculous an imitation of it, that all the company were kept in continual laughter, except one old gentleman, who sat with great composure, and though he listened, yet neither shewed curiosity nor approbation. After the entertainment, he was asked by some of the company, how it happened, that he had been no more affected by the music! To which he answered, with great gravity, that he heard Mr. *Rosingrave* play it himself before.

all



all this? Why nothing; but that I have had some subject to write upon. But to write a letter only, because Mr. *Rosgrave* has mind to carry one in his pocket, to tell you, that you are sure of a friendship, which can never do you three pence worth of good, and to wish you well in *England* very soon, when I do not know when I am likely to be there myself. All this, I say, is very absurd for a letter, especially when I have this day written a dozen much more to the purpose. If I had seen your manuscript \*; if I had received Dr. *Parnell's* poem; if I had any news of *Landen* being taken, why well and good; but as I know no more than that the duke of *Shrewsbury* designs for *England* within three weeks; that I must stay here till somebody else comes, and then brings me necessarily to say, good Mr. Dean, that I am like the fellow in the *Rehearsal*, who did not know if he was to be merry or serious, or in what way or mood to act his part. One thing only I am assured of, that I love you very well; and

\* 'Of the History of the Peace of *Utrecht*.'



am, most sincerely and faithfully, dear Sir,  
your servant and brother \*,

M. P R I O R.

Lord and lady *Shrewsbury* give their service to you. *Vanbomrigh* has run terribly here in debt, and, being in du-rance, has sent to his mother upon pecuniary concerns. Adieu once more.

What we are doing, or what is to become of us, I know not.

*Prudens futuri temporis exitum  
Caliginosâ nocte premit Deus,  
Ridetque——*

This is all the *Latin* and writing I can at present spare you.

Pray give my service to your chancellor †, and be much acquainted with judge *Nutley*, and love him very well for my sake. Adieu. Once more, find out my cousin *Pennyfather* and *Nutley* (if he is not too grave for you); and

\* He was one of the sixteen.

† ‘Sir *Constantine Phipps*.’



according to the laudable custom of your country, drink this Louis out, for a token of my generosity and your sobriety. And now I think, I have furnished out a very pretty letter.

# L E T T E R XCXIX.

Mr. L E W I S to Dr. S W I F T.

Whitehall, August 6, 1713.

**I** HAVE so often, and in so pressing a manner, desired you to come over, that, if what I have already said has no effect, I shall despair of better success by any farther arguments. If I were to recapitulate the several reasons you offer to the contrary, and answer them separately, I should grow peevish; which I have no way to avoid, but by telling you in general, it is all wrong. You and I have already laid it down for a maxim, that we must serve lord t—— ‡, without receiving orders or particular instructions; and I do not yet see a reason for changing that rule. His mind has been communicated more freely to you

‡ Treasurer.

than



than any other \* ; but you will not understand it. The desires of great men are commands at least ; the only ones, I hope, they ever will be able to use. You have a mind to stay in *Ireland* till *October*, and desire me to give my opinion whether you should come sooner. I answer, yes. Then you bid me consider again ; that is, you would have me say I am of opinion you should stay till *October*. When judges would have a jury change their verdict, they bid them consider again ; when a man is determined to marry a woman, and his friend advises him against it, he asks his opinion again ; and if his friend is so silly as not to alter his advice, he marries without it. I am as much in the spleen now I am answering your letter, as you were when you writ it. Come over ; you will cure yourself and me too. Adieu.

\* By this it appears, that the late lord *Orrery* was mistaken, when he said that *Swift* was employed, not trusted.

The End of the First Volume.





















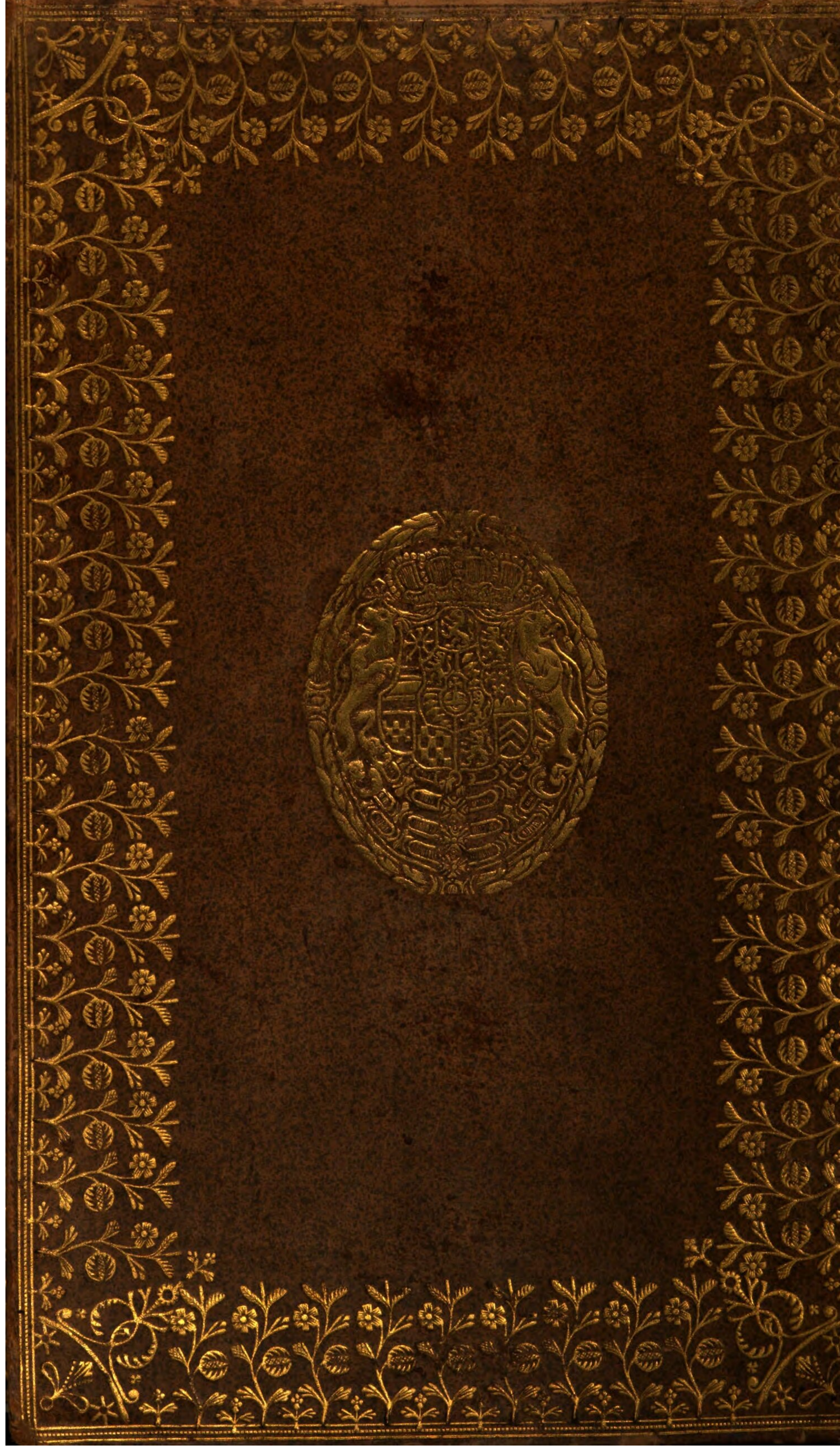














Swift, Jonathan, 1667-1745

Letters Written By The Late Jonathan Swift, D. D. Dean of St. Patrick's,  
Dublin; And Several Of His Friends From The Year 1703 To 1740 ; In Three  
Volumes  
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